

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET**Deliverable D7 EDS – International Museum Conference**

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - Stichting Joods Historisch Museum (JCQ) 2 – Rijksmuseum (RMA) 4 – Association of European Jewish Museums (AEJM)
PIC number:	940744995
Project name and acronym:	Looted Art and Judaica Project — LAJP

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP5 – D7
Event name:	Museum Conference
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	The Netherlands, Amsterdam
Date(s):	June 16-18, 2024
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	61
Male:	27
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 Austria:	7
From country 2 Belgium:	5
From country 3 Czech Republic:	3
From country 4 France:	4
From country 5 Germany:	18
From country 6 Greece:	2
From country 7 Hungary:	1
From country 8 Ireland:	1

From country 9 Italy:	3		
From country 10 Latvia:	3		
From country 11 Lithuania:	1		
From country 12 the Netherlands:	29		
From country 13 Poland:	8		
From country 14 Portugal:	1		
From country 15 Sweden:	2		
Total number of participants:	88	From total number of countries:	15
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The Jewish Cultural Quarter (JCQ) and the Association of European Jewish Museums (AEJM) co-organized the international museum conference <i>From Crisis to Creativity. Resilience and Renewal in Jewish Museums</i>, hosted in Amsterdam by JCQ from 16 until 18 June 2024. With this conference, the partners aimed at bringing together an international professional audience working in Jewish museums and Jewish collections from across Europe and beyond, strengthening international relationships between those involved in provenance research and restitution in the context of Jewish museum collections, at facilitating an exchange of experiences, challenges and best practice in the field of provenance research, restitution issues in the context of Jewish museums and collections, and at showing best practice in working on looted art under the Nazi-regime and issues of restitution by presenting LAJP as a state-of-the-art project in the field.</p> <p>Questions of looted art and Judaica, provenance research and restitution were addressed in the following programme sessions:</p> <p>Sunday 16 June 2024, 10:30-12:00 – Curatorial Tour of the Judaica-focused part of the exhibition <i>Looted</i> Museum gallery visits with Julie-Marthe Cohen, curator of cultural history of the Jewish Cultural Quarter Amsterdam (NL) and curator of <i>Looted</i>. This curatorial tour aimed at promoting an empathic approach of restitution of looted art and Judaica in general and presenting the exhibition <i>Looted</i> as part of LAJP as a best practice example of curatorial practice that can inspire the European community of Jewish museums & collections to present research results in the field of Judaica in an engaging and accessible way to a wide, general audience.</p> <p>Monday 17 June 2024, 10:45-12:15 – Plenary Session Curating Stories of Looted Art & Restitution Keynote by Mara Lagerweij, provenance specialist at Rijksmuseum (NL) and Julie-Marthe Cohen (NL), curators of the exhibition <i>Looted</i>. This keynote explored different curatorial strategies to exhibit personal stories related to looted art & Judaica, provenance research and restitution. The exhibition <i>A Fragile Past – Meissen Porcelain from the Oppenheimer Family</i> at the Rijksmuseum (2022) was highlighted, as well as <i>Looted</i> at the Jewish Cultural Quarter (2024).</p> <p>Round Table Talk on international perspectives on looted art & restitution with Dr Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek (DE), Judaica scholar, curator and museum consultant based in Vienna (AT), Dr Michaela Sidenberg, Deputy Director of the Jewish Museum Prague (CZ), and Nanette Snoep (NL), Director of the Rautenstrauch-Joes-Museum in Cologne (DE), moderated by Dr Kathrin Pieren (CH), Director of the Jewish Museum Westfalia in Dorsten (DE). This panel explored transnational dimensions of looted Judaica and provenance research, as well as interdisciplinary differences and similarities between Jewish looted cultural property and looted cultural property in the context of (de-)colonialism and decolonization. This with international experts concluded with the remark that this conversation was the starting point of what should be a continuing discussion on how museums working in these different fields learn from each other's experiences.</p>			

Monday 17 June 2024, 15:30-17:00 – **Plenary Session The Lost & Found Platform on Jewish Ceremonial Objects**

Project presentation by Dr Michaela Feurstein-Prasser (AT), Judaica and art scholar, art scholar, curator and museum consultant, Dr Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek (DE), and Julie-Marthe Cohen (NL). This project concerns a centralized database of lost and found objects and aims at connecting Judaica collections in Europe, Israel and the US and thus facilitating new provenance research in the field of Judaica. It builds on the publications *Neglected Witnesses. The Fate of Jewish Ceremonial Objects during the Second World War and After* (2011) and the *Handbook on Judaica Provenance Research: Ceremonial objects*, published on the website of the Claims Conference and World Jewish Restitution Organization in 2018. The current test version of the database was presented to the audience (including a showcase of different functionalities), with the aim of creating a solid support base and creating engagement amongst the Jewish museums community not only for using the database for research purposes, but also for contributing to the database through making available data sets on museum collections.

With contributions by Peter Tessel, search designer at Spinque (NL) and Wesley Fisher, Director of Research at the Conference of Jewish Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and World Jewish Restitution Organization (USA).

Monday 17 June 2024, 17:30-19:30 – **Curatorial Tour** of the Judaica-focused part of the exhibition *Looted*

Additional museum gallery visits with Julie-Marthe Cohen during the reception at the Jewish Museum, enabling those that did not join the Sunday tour to receive an in-depth tour of the exhibition

Via this report, we like to bring to your attention that much has changed in the work of Jewish museums since October 7, 2023, both intentionally and unintentionally. The desire of Jewish museums to address the current situation, to show solidarity, and to make an educational contribution has also changed as a result of last year's terrorist attack by Hamas and the subsequent outbreak of war. Since then, Jewish museums have experienced a new dimension of politicization and new challenges and hostilities, but also rising expectations due to a growing demand for education on anti-Semitism and the Shoah as a result of the recognition of a widespread anti-Semitic ideology that is experiencing a dramatic resurgence. The fundamental questions of how to develop adequate and proper coping mechanisms and how to create a resilient environment within our community of Jewish museums are very important and had to be addressed at the conference.

The museum conference brought together 88 participants from 41 organizations and individuals active in the European landscape of Jewish museums, plus another 19 delegates from countries that do not participate in the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2x Canada, 1x Georgia, 3x Israel, 1x Moldova, 2x Norway, 1x Russia, 3x Switzerland, 1x Turkey, 3x UK, 2x USA).