Annual Report 2025

centropa

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DEAR FRIENDS OF CENTROPA

A letter from Centropa's new Director

After 18 years at this remarkable organization, I am honored to write to you for the first time as Director of Centropa. Taking on this role means carrying forward a legacy: 25 years of preserving Jewish family stories and photographs across Central and Eastern Europe, and using digital technology to share them with the widest possible audience.

I want to thank Ed Serotta and the entire Centropa team, whose vision and dedication built not only this unique archive of 1,230 interviews with elderly Jews and 25,000 family photographs, but also the foundation that I now have the privilege of standing on.

From its offices in Vienna, Hamburg, Budapest and Washington, D.C., Centropa's team has developed films, exhibitions, audiowalks, podcasts and graphic novels, all of which take us back into the turbulent 20th century. Our programs bring Jewish history to life and build a bridge across borders and between generations: stories connect us all.

Since 2008, when I first set foot in Centropa's headquarters in Vienna, we have held over 100 seminars for more than 3,000 teachers in 20 countries, and Centropa has become one of Europe's leading Holocaust education programs and one of the most valued resources in the US for bringing personal stories of prewar Jewish life and the Holocaust to American classrooms.

With the help of local experts and our digital tools, we have empowered seminar participants to teach 20th-century Jewish history beyond the Holocaust. In times of polarization and growing antisemitism, we believe it is crucial to promote dialogue and to teach how Jews lived, not only how they were murdered. Through our programs, we have given educators the tools to help their students encounter Jewish history as part of our shared history and heritage.

I am particularly proud of the network of partners we built across Europe while I was director of Centropa Germany. I want to thank them for their trust, and I look forward to getting to know and working with the network of US partners and donors who have also been central to Centropa's success in the United States.

In the pages that follow, you will read what we accomplished in 2025—both in Europe and the United States. In a year of transition, we expanded our reach in schools and universities and further developed our education program by adding new digital resources such as project websites, podcasts and apps. We also established two new advisory boards—strategic and educational—bringing together expertise and perspectives from across the globe to help shape Centropa's work and strengthen the organization's long-term sustainability.

None of this would be possible without our donors, our educators, and above all, the people who shared their stories with us. I want to express my deep gratitude for their trust and support.

As I lead Centropa into its next chapter, my commitment to you is simple: to protect what has been built, to listen carefully before I change anything, and to make sure Centropa's work reaches further into more classrooms, countries, and communities. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Warm regards,

Fabian Rühle
Director, Centropa

Edward Serotta
Director, through 2025

Starting in 1985, I began photographing, filming, and writing about Jews in Central and Eastern Europe. By 2000, I felt I had done a reasonably good job of taking pictures of Jews. Now I wanted to take pictures from Jews. After all, I had spent fifteen years sitting on sofas in East Berlin, Dresden, Krakow, Budapest, Cluj, Sofia, Belgrade, Split, Kyiv, and another dozen cities. And in every home, people would show me family pictures and tell me stories. That was the year I founded Centropa with two Hungarian women, Eszter Andor and Dora Sardi. Their own family histories were intertwined with the tragedies of the twentieth century, and now that they were both young mothers (they went on to have eight children between them!), they wanted the same thing that I did: to preserve Jewish memory in the lands where the Holocaust took place.

By the early 2000s, the price of laptop computers had fallen dramatically and data-capture software could be had for a song. That meant our interviewers could work in villages, towns and cities. Not in an office, but in someone's home. Dejan Petrovic, who had been directing cultural programs in the Belgrade Jewish community, joined us and developed programs anyone could use.

The first person Dejan insisted we interview was, no surprise, his mom, the chemist Suzana Hacker, who lived in the Serbian city of Novi Sad. Suzana connected us with several of her friends who we also met with. During our third session with Suzana, she looked at us and said, "You are the fourth group to interview Jews here. But you are the first to ask how we lived, not just how we died."

That line became our leitmotif: to record stories and digitize pictures that would allow us to preserve a world. By 2009, we had interviewed 1,230 elderly Jews still living in Europe, digitized more than 25,000 of their old family pictures, and audio-recorded 40,000 pages of stories.

I am proud to state that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, acquired the entire Centropa archive, and our teams continue to draw on this unique collection to produce films, podcasts, graphic novels, thematic websites, along with temporary and permanent exhibitions. We have also held scores of teachers' seminars that have been attended by over 3,000 teachers.

2025 marks my final year directing Centropa, although I am staying on to coordinate our Ukrainian programs. Fabian Rühle, who came to me eighteen years ago from the American Jewish Committee in Berlin, is now our director, and his team will continue doing just what we set out to do a quarter century ago: preserving a world and telling the stories that need to be told.

Mária Lieberman
Director Centropa Hungary

As the Director of Centropa Hungary and the Centropa Jewish Network, I bring a background in informal Jewish education to my work with teachers. I am deeply committed to supporting educators in teaching about our shared past in Hungary and Europe to both Jewish and non-Jewish students.

Centropa is one of only a handful of institutions in Hungary offering accredited teacher training on twentieth-century Jewish history and the Holocaust, and we are proud to work with a network of more than 800 teachers and to reach 5,000 students each year through our direct educational programs. Our work includes interactive workshops for students and teachers, peer-led learning formats, and encounters that bring Holocaust survivors' testimonies directly into classrooms in Hungary and internationally.

The Centropa Jewish Network (CJN) connects teachers from Jewish schools across

Europe and Israel, creating a unique platform for collaboration, exchange, and joint student projects. Together, we strengthen Jewish identity while exploring shared history through Centropa's distinctive archive of personal stories. I also greatly value the opportunity to work with educators at our Summer Academy, where dialogue across countries and backgrounds turns history into a shared educational practice. These encounters continually remind me how essential it is to build bridges between communities through teaching and learning.

Lauren Granite
Director Centropa USA

As part of Centropa's first Summer Academy cohort, I used Centropa's resources in the classroom starting in 2007 and created Centropa's first cross-cultural project between Maryland high schoolers and teens in Europe. In 2010, I joined Centropa's staff as US Education Director. My academic background in religious studies, together with 9 years' experience teaching high school Jewish history, were great assets for helping educators effectively use Centropa's oral history archive, films, websites, and podcasts in the classroom.

Centropa has become a go-to resource throughout the US for using personal stories to teach about prewar Jewish life and the Holocaust. Through seminars, webinars, conference presentations, and programs that bring together educators in the US, Europe, and Israel, Centropa USA's programs prepare teachers to teach about the Holocaust accurately and sensitively. The cross-cultural partnerships we cultivate open the minds of young people who will

never leave their towns and the Milton Wolf Prize in Student Advocacy—Centropa's longest-running student program—inspires students to learn about their communities and teaches them how to advocate for issues they are passionate about.

As this report shows, we partner with museums, universities, Holocaust education programs, Jewish federations, and school districts, currently reaching teachers in 34 states, and constantly expanding our reach as we continue to tell the stories that need to be told—now more than ever.

CENTROPA HAMBURG

Main accomplishments in 2025

8

TEACHER SEMINARS

8 seminars for 215 teachers across Europe, plus our **International Summer Academy** program in Budapest and Belgrade for **62 teachers from 16 countries**.

6

NEW GRAPHIC NOVELS

New Graphic Novels & Exhibitions: Together with students from Moldova, Ukraine, Germany, Greece and Poland, we developed **six graphic novels** and **two exhibitions on Jewish women's stories** from the Centropa archive.

300

STUDENTS

10

WORKSHOPS

Youth encounters for **300 students through 10 school and university student workshops**: We organized **six youth encounters** and conducted **ten workshops on Oral History and Jewish women's stories** from the Centropa archive for students from Germany and Greece (Berlin, Munich, Patras, Mannheim and Freiburg), from Croatia and Serbia (in Zagreb), as well as from Poland and Ukraine (in Krakow and in Warsaw), **reaching 300 students.**

19

RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

Professionalizing Centropa: we established a **Strategic Advisory Board** and an **Education Advisory Board** consisting of **19 renowned international experts**. Each board meets several times a year.

1000

VISITORS

10

LOCATIONS

1

EXHIBITION

Presented our **HerStories exhibition in 10 locations** (universities, museums and churches) across Germany. In total, more than **1,000 visitors saw the exhibition**.

POLAND

Empowering educators and students through local history and international exchange

POLAND remains one of Centropa's strongest teacher networks. Together with the Galicia Jewish Museum (GJM), we have developed teacher training programs, youth programs, exhibitions, and cutting-edge educational tools that bring Jewish history and Holocaust remembrance to life across Poland. Since 2011, Centropa and GJM have organized 30 seminars and workshops in cities including Warsaw, Kraków, Łódź, Wrocław, Białystok, Tarnów, and Lublin, reaching 480 educators. 50 educators have participated in Centropa's international Summer Academies and have established partnerships with schools in Europe, Israel, and the US.

In May 2025, Centropa organized its annual teacher training seminar in Lublin, in cooperation with the Galicia Jewish Museum and the local partner Grodzka Gate – Teatr NN. Supported by the EU and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the seminar brought together 25 Polish teachers for three days of learning, exchange, and reflection. The program combined lectures, workshops, film screenings, and guided tours of Jewish Lublin and the Majdanek Memorial.

Polish students were also actively involved: For 40 students from Tarnow and Wroclaw, the Centropa interview with Gizela Fudem became the inspiration for an educational project by GJM and Centropa, linking the two cities in which Gizela spent most of her life. Students learned about Gizela's experiences, visited sites connected to her life, and searched local archives for documents, photos, and testimonies. The final exhibition reflects the students' journey and their understanding of the value of memory.

Going forward: For 2026 and 2027, Centropa is holding programs for 60 teachers and hundreds of students in Zamość and Krakow. Galicia Jewish Museum remains Centropa's institutional partner in Poland and serves as a key hub for many of our educational activities, exhibitions, teacher trainings, and youth programs in the country. Through our youth programs, we will continue to connect young Poles with their German and Ukrainian neighbors.

"Centropa is a unique educational program that I will definitely use in my work. Your resources – films, interviews, exhibitions, and thematic websites – are extremely valuable because they show Jewish history through the prism of individual, moving stories." High School Teacher, Krakow, Poland

LITHUANIA

Building expertise through location-based learning and peer exchange

Since we began working with schools in Lithuania in 2012, we have trained 350 teachers and built a strong partnership with the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania. Many teachers come from smaller towns, ensuring that Holocaust education reaches students throughout the country. In 2025, Centropa organized two training seminars for Lithuanian educators.

In March 2025, we held a seminar in Palanga and Plungė for 25 educators who had previously participated in Centropa programs. The seminar focused on deepening participants' knowledge of local Jewish history through location-based learning and advanced pedagogical practice. Participants visited the Kaušėnai massacre site near Plungė and the Litvak Garden Memorial. The biography of Jakov Bunke, who was born and interviewed by Centropa in Plungė, served as a case study throughout the seminar. Working with Centropa's photos, films, and archival materials, participants explored how personal stories can make complex historical events more relatable for students. Workshops and lesson-planning sessions helped teachers translate historical knowledge into practical activities.

In October 2025, Centropa held its second seminar in Vilnius, when 25 educators from across Lithuania attended a Centropa seminar for the first time. Three experienced Centropa teachers shared practical teaching strategies and best practice examples. This peer-learning approach has become an important element of Centropa's educational model, helping new participants translate ideas into concrete classroom practice. Participants attended historical lectures, worked with Centropa biographies, photos, films, and lesson plans, they visited the Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History, the Vilnius Choral Synagogue, and the Paneriai Memorial, and they explored Jewish Vilnius through Centropa's digital AudioWalk.

Going forward: Building on the success of the current program, and with the support of the Claims Conference and the Good Will Foundation, we will hold our first seminar in Tallinn, and create opportunities for cross-border cooperation and exchange among educators from Lithuania and Estonia.

"Attending the Centropa seminar in Vilnius offered a unique opportunity to learn about personal stories that make Jewish history and the Holocaust understandable and tangible, making the learning experience more meaningful and impactful." Teacher from Lithuania

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Romania and Greece

Centropa has been working in southeastern Europe since 2010 and has held a total of 27 seminars for classroom teachers, education ministry officials, community activists and museum curators. We offer teachers multimedia films, two traveling exhibitions, and websites in multiple Balkan languages. Overall, over 500 teachers have attended our programs, and we now offer award-winning multimedia films, two enormous traveling exhibitions, and thematic websites that take them into the heart of the Balkan Sephardim.

In 2025, we held one seminar for Balkan teachers in the Slovene capital of Ljubljana. A total of 30 teachers from Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia and Serbia attended.

Additionally, 2025 was the year that the Centropa Summer Academy returned to Serbia. The Summer Academy in Belgrade offered us the opportunity to introduce even more teachers to the rich history of Balkan Jewry.

"Centropa seminars stand out due to their emphasis on personal narratives and interactive learning, using primary sources to explore Jewish history and culture. They foster a collaborative environment where participants engage deeply with materials, share insights, and connect historical events to contemporary issues. The focus on multicultural perspectives and real-life stories encourages empathy and a deeper understanding of complex histories, making the seminars both educational and impactful. This approach contrasts with more traditional, lecture-based formats often found in other seminars." Ana Dinkovska-Bozhinovska, from N. Macedonia, at the 2024 Sarajevo seminar.

"Centropa's resources can be valuable in addressing antisemitism by providing personal narratives, historical context, and educational tools that counter stereotypes and misinformation. By focusing on individual stories of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe, rather than just the Holocaust, Centropa humanizes history and fosters empathy. Educators can use Centropa's films or interviews to show students the richness of Jewish culture before, during, and after World War II. This approach helps challenge simplistic or harmful views by emphasizing Jewish contributions to European societies. In professional settings, Centropa's materials can also support discussions on diversity, memory and tolerance." Saša Ćirković, from Belgrade, at the 2025 Ljubljana seminar

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Romania and Greece

GREECE – We started working with schools in Greece in 2012, when we held our first joint seminar with the Jewish Museum of Greece in Athens. Since then we have trained over 150 Greek teachers, and 40 have attended our international Centropa Summer Academy. In late 2024, Centropa signed a Memorandum of Understanding not only with our institutional partner, the Jewish Museum of Greece, but also with the Greek Ministry of Education's office for Religious Affairs. Special thanks goes to Vassiliki Keramida, who has promoted Centropa's work in Greece since the beginning.

In June 2025, Centropa and its local partner, the Jewish Museum of Greece, held our joint annual Greek seminar in the historic town of Ioannina, where we brought together 30 classroom teachers from all over Greece. Participants attended a lecture by the Director of the JMG, Zanet Battinou, on the Jewish history of Ioannina, and workshops and presentations by Centropa veteran teachers. We also visited the local synagogue where we met members of the local Jewish community. After working with Centropa films, teachers also created lesson plans in small groups based on interviews and materials from the Centropa archive.

ROMANIA – In October 2025, 23 history teachers from Iasi and its surroundings were introduced to the Centropa website and its archives, worked with Centropa resources and then applied their newfound knowledge to creating lesson plans on their own. During the seminar, educators also participated in a walking tour exploring Iasi's Jewish past and visited the Jewish community and Iasi synagogue (Romania's oldest still existing synagogue), learning more about its current community as well. Through a visit to the Iasi Pogrom Museum, participants deepened their understanding of the city's Jewish history and the devastating events of the 1941 pogrom.

The visit brought the history they had been studying into a more immediate and personal context, while following in the footsteps of Tili Solomon, a Centropa interviewee who was born and raised in Iasi, gave participants the opportunity to connect the city's past with the lived experience of one of its Jewish residents. Together, these experiences helped the teachers move beyond learning about history as something distant and abstract, and encouraged them to consider how personal stories, local sites and testimony can make the history of the Holocaust more tangible and meaningful for their students.

GERMANY

Using Berlin as our 3D classroom

The year 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 35th anniversary of German reunification—two pivotal moments in history. What better place to reflect on these events than Berlin, a city that embodies both memory and transformation?

In May, 61 high school students and their teachers from Germany, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine came together in Berlin for the final event of a year-long project funded by the German Foreign Office. In Berlin, students presented graphic novels and a student exhibition highlighting local Jewish women's stories, which they had worked on in international and national groups since their last meeting in November 2024 in Warsaw. The project was held in partnership with GJM (Poland), Insha Osvita (Ukraine), and the Jewish Museum of Moldova. The graphic novels and student exhibition can be found on this website.

In October, we brought 30 teachers from Germany, Israel and Poland for a four-day training seminar to Berlin, where participants explored Berlin's unique history through inspiring lectures by Michael Brenner and Benjamin Fischer and interactive site visits. In trilateral workshop sessions, the teachers shared best practices and developed new joint projects on how to teach about the Holocaust and 20th century Jewish history in a post-October 7 scenario.

STORIES THAT TRAVEL

Three Projects Taking Jewish Memory Across Europe

In 2025, Centropa joined three new projects that take a European approach to Holocaust remembrance. Two focus on education, and one lays the groundwork for a shared digital infrastructure for Holocaust-related data. All of them bring together people from different disciplines across Europe.

BREAKING INTO A GALLOP: Teaching about the Genocide of the Roma
Funded by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Grant Program and the EVZ Foundation, this incubator project has been developed by Terraforming in cooperation with Centropa, the Intercultural Institute Timisoara (Romania) and the TENET Center for Social Transformations (Ukraine). It asks teachers where the challenges in teaching about the genocide of the Roma lie. Centropa contributed by sharing its methodology and applying it to Roma stories. Online and in-person workshops bring together teacher trainers, multipliers and policymakers from fourteen countries. They address a gap in the system: teachers' experiences rarely reach policymakers, teacher trainers and textbook authors. The main output will be a publication for decision-makers, teacher trainers and curriculum developers that summarizes the teachers' challenges and their suggestions. The project supports the national implementation of the IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Persecution and Genocide of the Roma during the Nazi Era.

ENGAGE: Jewish Women from Greece and Germany in the 20th Century
Led by University of Patras (Greece) and Centropa, students from Germany, Greece and Ukraine created two graphic novels based on life stories from the Centropa archive about Renée Molho and Erna Goldmann. Over eight months, eight university students took part in educational trips to Munich, Dachau and Patras, and participated in online and in-person workshops. Special thanks to Markus Freundorfer, as well as Olga Poljak and her three Ukrainian students. Markus, a veteran Centropa teacher trainer, conducted guided tours in Munich and Dachau, and shared his expertise on how to use graphic novels in class. Olga and her students illustrated the storyboard which the students from Greece and Germany had developed.

EUROPEAN MEMORY DATA SPACE (EMDS) BLUEPRINT Managed by Jewish Heritage Network, this transnational EU-funded initiative is developing a shared digital infrastructure for Holocaust-related data. By connecting archives, research institutions, commemoration projects, and organizations such as Centropa, EMDS will make it easier to find, access, and reuse Holocaust-related digitized materials across borders. Centropa shared its expertise during the kickoff in Amsterdam, and is contributing with an international event for students and educators in January 2026, as part of a series of 21 workshops and events. Partners include AEPJ, the Combat Antisemitism Movement, Post Bellum and Terraforming.

IMAGINE

Turning Centropa's women's stories from seven countries into powerful tools for educators and teenagers

Co-funded by
the European Union

IMAGINE – Active Remembrance through Jewish Women's Stories is the continuation of Centropa's HerStories project and is coordinated by Centropa's Hamburg office. In addition to the Centropa offices in Budapest and Hamburg, project partners include the Galicia Jewish Museum (Poland), the Centre for Education Policy (Serbia), HERMES (Croatia), the International Commission (Lithuania), the University of Patras (Greece), and JewLIF (Germany). The project brings Jewish life and the history of the Holocaust closer to young Europeans through the stories of 14 Jewish women who lived in the 20th century, all drawn from the Centropa archive. During university and school workshops and webinars, students develop lesson plans, exhibition posters, and explainer videos.

Based on short versions of 14 Centropa interviews from 7 countries, the consortium developed a concept for the university workshops under the leadership of Alexandra Patrikiou. The first international teacher seminar took place in Kraków in November 2025, with 25 educators participating. During the seminar, participants learned about Kraków's Jewish history. On walking tours, they traced the life paths of the two Centropa interviewees from Krakow, Teofila Silberring and Emilia Leibel, and developed film scripts based on Emilia's life.

The project is co-funded by the European Union under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme.

Imagine
Active Remembrance through
Jewish Women's Stories

iMEMORY

Using Centropa stories to connect teenagers in Ukraine with their European counterparts

iMEMORY – From September 2024 to December 2025, "**iMemory**" brought together 72 teenagers from Poland, Germany, Serbia, Croatia, and Ukraine. A follow up to our MemoryLanes project, **iMemory** was launched to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, and for teenagers to reflect on Jewish history and its relevance today. Teenagers participated in workshops on oral history and met in Berlin and in binational and trinational groups in Warsaw and Zagreb. They conducted **12 interviews with Holocaust survivors** and their descendants. To foster mutual exchange and learn interview techniques, they paired up in **35 interview-tandems** and shared their results on social media. **Six young artists** from Ukraine, Poland and Croatia conceptualized **eight 3D artworks** based on Centropa stories. In November, all participants met in Krakow for the closing conference.

Our **MemoryLanes smartphone app** now includes a wide array of youth projects inspired by Centropa biographies, which highlight significant sites of Jewish life in the teenagers' hometowns as new locations for remembrance. Additionally, the App offers creative storytelling formats tailored specifically for young audiences, such as **films, comics, AR guides (Augmented Reality), and songs** that introduce Centropa biographies and the associated places. New tandem interviews feature iMemory participants talking with each other about important themes of memory, identity, and responsibility that foster deeper connections and discussions. Also included are **excerpts of oral history interviews** conducted by participants with Holocaust survivors and their families, with full interviews available on the Centropa website. The experience is enriched through **3D artworks**, which allow students to explore Centropa biographies and bring **AR reconstructions** of significant sites, such as synagogue reconstructions into their classrooms.

iMemory is funded by the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ) and the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF). The project was a collaborative effort between Centropa, the Galicia Jewish Museum (Poland), the Centre for Education Policy (Serbia), HERMES (Croatia), Gedankendach (Ukraine) and berlinHistory (Germany)

Project of the Education Agenda NS-Injustice

Funded by:

Federal Ministry of Finance

on the basis of a decision of the Bundestag

Foundation EVZ Remembrance Responsibility Future

"I found myself reflecting once again on the importance of respecting others, being tolerant, and ensuring that such tragedies are never repeated in the future. I believe that programs like this are essential for young people, as they help you truly understand history and appreciate humanity." Teenager from Ukraine

CENTROPA VIENNA

Main accomplishments in 2025

3

TEACHER SEMINARS

3 teacher seminars in Ukraine for **91 high school teachers** and **university instructors**

1

NEW TRAVELING EXHIBITION

In January, we opened our exhibition, ***A Ukrainian Jewish Century*, in the Living History Center at Babyn Yar in Kyiv**. Some **140 guests** attended the opening, which was **covered by 22 media sources**, including **Le Monde** and **DW**.

12

NEW PODCAST EPISODES

For our **13th season**, we focus on stories about the **end of the Second World War**. Three Ukrainian Jews tell us of fighting their way into Berlin in May 1945.

11

CAFE CENTROPA VIENNA MEETINGS

Six Café Centropa survivors were **honored with the Simon Wiesenthal Prize** in the Austrian Parliament for their work as Holocaust witnesses. Later that month, **25 Café Centropa Holocaust survivors** met with members of the **European Holocaust Research Infrastructure**, creating an opportunity for meaningful exchange between survivors and international Holocaust researchers.

UKRAINE

Supporting teachers and students in times of war

Between 2001 and 2006, our interviewing team in Ukraine, under the guidance of historian Leonid Finberg, **conducted 264 interviews** and **digitized nearly 4,000 privately held family photographs**. From this archive, we have created websites, multimedia films, podcasts and exhibitions.

We began our **educational program in 2016** and held **six seminars** for **250 teachers** throughout the country. COVID and the full-scale invasion put a temporary end to those programs, but we relaunched them in 2023. By spring 2026, **220 additional teachers** have attended **nine seminars** on **20th-century Ukrainian Jewish history**.

2025 was an especially important year: in January, **we opened our exhibition, A Ukrainian Jewish Century**, in the Living History Center at **Babyn Yar** in Kyiv. Some **140 guests attended** the opening, which was covered by **22 media sources**, including **Le Monde** and **Deutsche Welle**.

In 2025, **nine universities and schools** brought the exhibition to their towns and cities, often supported by programs of our partner organization, Insha Osvita.

During the year, we held **three teachers' seminars**: **Kyiv** in February, **Lviv** in April, and **Odesa** in September. A total of **91 high school teachers** and **university instructors attended**.

Top: the opening of **A Ukrainian Jewish Century** in Babyn Yar's Living History Center in January 2025

Left: a **Jewish walking tour of Odesa for Centropa teachers** in September 2025

Right: **Maryna Mehelby**, one of our most innovative Ukrainian teachers, was **awarded History Teacher of the Year**, and was given the award by **President Zelensky**.

CAFÉ CENTROPA VIENNA

Cultural and community events for Holocaust survivors

Centropa is the only oral history program that has a social club for the people it interviewed. **Since May 2006, we have been meeting 11 times each year in Vienna**. We bring in historians, writers, and musicians to engage with our seniors, and celebrate the Jewish holidays. Since 2006 our coordinator has been Tanja Eckstein.

In 2025, we held our gatherings at different locations such as the historic Café Prückel, due to the restoration of Vienna's Stadttempel synagogue.

For Passover, 92 of our elderly guests and their families were hosted by State Secretary Alexander Pröll.

In September, six Café Centropa survivors were honored with the Simon Wiesenthal Prize in the Austrian Parliament for their work as Holocaust witnesses. Later that month, **25 Café Centropa Holocaust survivors met with members of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure**, creating an opportunity for meaningful exchange between survivors and international Holocaust researchers.

The year concluded with a Chanukah celebration at the **Federal Chancellery, attended by 80 members and Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner**.

CENTROPA STORIES

Our 13th Podcast season

Centropa's podcast is unique and each episode is based on the 1,230 interviews we conducted between 2000 and 2009.

For our 13th season, we focus on stories about the end of the Second World War. Three Ukrainian Jews tell us of fighting their way into Berlin in May 1945.

Then we hear tales of liberation: a young man describes being freed from a German work camp; a teenager in Budapest went to the train station every day to look for her father; and we hear from a Polish Jew who stumbled back in Łódź, desperate to find her family.

The last three episodes are about starting over: in Vilnius in Lithuania, in Bitola in today's North Macedonia, and in Targu Mures in Romania.

All these stories were told to us by Jews who had been born in Europe—and who remained in Europe. Their stories were recorded in each of their languages. We have translated and edited them and they are read for us by actors in London.

Sara Kestelman

Allan Corduner

Tina Gray

Steve Furst

This podcast season was co-funded by the European Union.

CENTROPA BUDAPEST

Main accomplishments in 2025

4
TEACHER SEMINARS

2 professional development seminars for **60 Hungarian teachers**, 1 international seminar for **22 teachers from European Jewish schools and Israel**, 1 regional seminar in Israel for **20 teachers** plus our Centropa Summer Academy program for **65 teachers**.

2
TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

3252
GUIDED STUDENT VISITORS

Stories from a Family Album was shown in **seven schools** and ***In the Footsteps of European Jewish Women*** traveled to **six schools** across Hungary.

11
WALKING TOURS

178
STUDENTS

178 students took part in our **interactive walking tours** or their classroom-based adaptations.

15
CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

112
STUDENTS

We conducted **15 workshops** for **112 students**.

361
STUDENTS MET WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

In **14 meetings**, students met with elderly members of our **Cafe Centropa** Program and another seven student groups met with **Holocaust survivor Judit Kinszki** following the walking tour.

146
COMPETITION SUBMISSIONS

Our **Centropa Jewish Network** international student competition received **146 project submissions** from students representing **10 Jewish schools**.

In 2025, Centropa Hungary also participated in several European Union–funded international projects, further expanding our professional network and strengthening our international educational presence.

In 2025, Centropa Hungary's operations were supported by the European Union, the Gallic Fund, and the Hungarian Jewish Heritage Public Foundation (Mazsök).

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EUROPEAN JEWISH WOMEN

A new Traveling Exhibition and Interactive Peer-Guide Training

Co-funded by
the European Union

After the **HerStories** project, which ended in December 2024, Centropa's educational programs were expanded with new content. For the traveling exhibition **In the Footsteps of European Jewish Women**, which consists of 15 roll-up panels and guides visitors through key periods of the 20th century by looking at the life stories of seven European Jewish women, we developed **a peer-guide training program.** During the eight-hour training, students become familiar with the women's life stories, and are prepared to lead exhibition tours for their peers. The training is supported by a Handbook, which includes methodological guidance, a glossary, and practical advice on handling challenging situations. **28 students completed the training and subsequently guided 736 fellow students** through the exhibition. We also developed **classroom workshops** based on the life stories of these seven Jewish women. In 2025, we held **eight workshops** and reached **161 students**.

The programs were supported by the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund (JHF) and the JDC Mozaik Hub.

TEACHER SEMINARS

for 60 Hungarian educators from across the country

SOPRON – The March seminar in Sopron welcomed 28 primary and secondary school teachers from 13 towns. Participants explored the city's Jewish heritage through visits to the Jewish cemetery, Paprét Synagogue, and medieval synagogue, and joined the local Jewish community for a Kabbalat Shabbat and a Kiddush. Holocaust survivor Erzsi Selek shared her life story in a Zoom meeting with the participants. The seminar introduced Centropa's educational programs, including workshops, walking tours, traveling exhibitions, and peer-guide trainings. Teachers developed lesson plans and educational materials based on Centropa's films and interviews.

"Women's stories are essential because without them the picture of history we present to our students is incomplete. These stories help students see not only numbers, but human lives, making history far more tangible and relatable." Réka Schranz-Zászkaliczky, Budapest

BUDAPEST – The October seminar in Budapest focused on women's stories, using educational materials developed in the HerStories project. The program combined lectures with educational walks, visits to the Rumbach Street Synagogue, Shabbat celebration, and meeting with Holocaust survivor Olga Sólyom. The 32 participants developed lesson plans based on the lives of six Jewish women, while exchanging teaching ideas.

"I knew very little about Judaism. The training provided new information, methods, and ideas that I can use in my everyday work. I am taking everything with me and am very grateful that the training motivated me through the end of the school year." Réka Polyák, Pécs

Both seminars were co-funded by the European Union and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Budapest.
The Sopron seminar also received support from the Natan Fund.

STORIES FROM A FAMILY ALBUM

Traveling Exhibition and Interactive Peer-Guide Training

TRAVELING EXHIBITION – *Stories from a Family Album* presents Jewish life in 20th-century Hungary through personal stories and family photographs. Focusing on ordinary people, the exhibition explores childhood, family life, the Holocaust and postwar rebuilding.

Since 2022, the exhibition has been accompanied by Centropa's peer-guide training program. During a one-day workshop, students learn about Hungarian Jewish History, Jewish identity, and the exhibition before serving as guides for their classmates. In 2025, the exhibition was shown in seven primary and secondary schools in Miskolc, Halásztelek, and Budapest, including three schools that joined following our 2024 teacher training in Miskolc. Altogether, **111 students** were trained as peer guides, conducting **103 guided tours** for **2,517 fellow students**. Across all participating schools, students responded enthusiastically to the interactive methodology and the opportunity to engage with personal stories from the past.

The program was funded by the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund (JHF) and the Natan Fund.

"The training was highly successful... In addition to thorough content preparation, the development of presentation and public speaking skills was a key element of the training. It was a great joy to see the dedication with which the students presented the stories... Feedback showed that both the peer-guide format and learning about the everyday lives and personal fates of the victims were new and powerful experiences." Márta Szabó, high school teacher, Budapest

"I learned a great deal... and also gained confidence in speaking and presenting." 10th grade student, Budapest

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF IMRE KINSZKI

Interactive walking tour and workshop

WALKING TOUR – Imre Kinszki was an outstanding amateur photographer of the early 20th century whose career was tragically cut short by the Holocaust. His work came to the attention of both professional circles and the wider public only decades after his death. In 2004, Centropa conducted an interview with the photographer's daughter, Judit Kinszki; thanks to her testimony, a rich photographic legacy and numerous personal family stories have been preserved. Imre Kinszki's photographic career began at roughly the same time as that of other Hungarian photographers of Jewish origin—Robert Capa, Martin Munkácsi, André Kertész, and László Moholy-Nagy—who later achieved international recognition.

"Throughout my life, I have longed to share my father's story with someone. Although he was taken from me when I was very young, I still feel a strong connection to him whenever I recount memories of him." Judit Kinszki, Holocaust survivor

In 2022, six experts collaborated with Centropa to design an interactive walking tour based on Kinszki's life and work. Since then, it has become a permanent educational program at Centropa. In 2023, we developed a classroom-based version of the walking tour ensuring that weather conditions no longer pose an obstacle. During the walking tour and the workshop, students learn about everyday life in Budapest in the early 20th century, the history of Hungarian Jewry, and the life stories and work of individual photographers. Students engage in interactive tasks and reflect on what they have learned through the medium of photography. They listen to Judith Kinszki's recollections, which offer insight into her father's life, her childhood, her family's experiences during the war years, the Holocaust, and the challenges of rebuilding life after the war. **In 2025, 178 students participated in 11 walking tours and 4 workshops**.

Judith Kinszki passed away in November 2025.

"The task I enjoyed the most was recreating one of the photographs at the same location where it had originally been taken."

"The part I liked the most was the conversation with Judith Kinszki, because we could learn many interesting details about a part of her life, which also helped me prepare for a test." high school students, Budapest

This program was co-funded by the European Union through the Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values (CERV) Program and the Natan Fund.

CAFE CENTROPA BUDAPEST

Cultural and community events for Holocaust survivors

For more than a decade, we have been running our Café Centropa program for Holocaust survivors, offering cultural and community events. Since July 2022, the professional and community coordinator of Café Centropa has been Andrea Koch, who, in addition to organizing the program, plays an active role in strengthening cohesion and mutual support within the community. In 2025, **we hosted Café Centropa participants at 14 events**. Each event was tailored to the participants' age and health needs. The annual program included lectures, talks, concerts, exhibition visits, a trip to Kővágóörs, and shared holiday celebrations. In 2025, through our programs, a total of **361 students from 14 schools in 8 municipalities met Holocaust survivors**.

Our social programs were supported by The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

CENTROPA JEWISH NETWORK

International projects and professional relationships

Through the **Centropa Jewish Network (CJN)**—a network connecting Jewish schools in Europe and Israel—we create opportunities for teachers to build professional relationships, learn from one another, and discuss the challenges and successes of Jewish education. For students, the CJN offers international projects and competitions that allow them to collaborate with peers abroad, discover other Jewish communities, and broaden their knowledge while strengthening their Jewish identities. Our goal is to foster lasting, cross-border connections and a sense of belonging among Jewish schools—from Amsterdam to Istanbul, and from Kyiv to Stockholm—through seminars, workshops, and student programs.

In May 2025, we held our **14th international seminar** for Jewish school teachers in Budapest, bringing together **22 educators from nine countries** and representing **16 Jewish schools**. During the seminar, participants explored Budapest's Jewish past and present through walking tours and examined how personal narratives can be used as effective educational tools through the HerStories project, which presents the life stories of seven European Jewish women. A central component of the seminar was the exchange of innovative digital pedagogical methods, as well as the collaborative development of lesson plans and international educational projects. Throughout the program, participants were actively encouraged to remain in contact after the seminar and to initiate cross-border student projects. As a result, several project proposals were developed that are planned for implementation during the 2025–26 academic year within the CJN network.

For our **competition for Jewish school students**, which was held for the tenth time in the 2024–25 school year, we invited students to submit short films, photographs, and other creative works on the themes of Jewish family history, gastronomy, and local history. **146 projects were submitted by 182 students across seven countries**. We are especially pleased that in recent years several schools have integrated the competition into their curricula.

CJN programs in 2025 were supported by the Jack Buncher Foundation, with funding received through Centropa's Washington office.

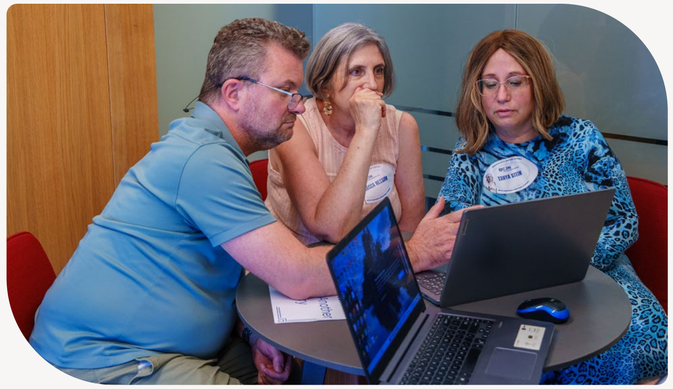
"Centropa Jewish Network provides us with a rich platform to explore Jewish history and identity in a way that is personal, nuanced, and deeply human. For our school, it opens doors to meaningful cross-cultural dialogue, innovative teaching tools, and connections with educators across Europe. It helps us root history in lived experience, making the past relevant and engaging for our students at Maimonides in Amsterdam." Nir Nadler, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

ISRAEL

Empowering educators, building a professional network

With the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and within the framework of the Centropa Jewish Network, we organized a **two-day professional development seminar in Tel Aviv for 20 primary and secondary school teachers from across Israel.** During the seminar, teachers became familiar with Centropa's educational methodology and materials, including short films presenting the life stories of Rosa Rosenstein, Erna Goldmann, and Leo Luster. Following each screening, participants worked in groups to **develop lesson plans connected to the films**. Separate workshops addressed questions of Jewish identity and explored the responsible use of artificial intelligence in education. Special thanks go to Micky Drill of the Ebert Foundation, and to our Israeli coordinator Yahel Ox.

The seminar was supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Israel and the Jack Buncher Foundation.



CENTROPA USA

Teachers cannot teach something they don't know. In 2007, when Ed Serotta walked into US schools and said, "It's not enough to teach how Jews were murdered, we must teach how they lived," teachers gasped as they realized two things: he was right, and they had no idea how to do it. That's when he handed them seven- or twelve-minute films telling compelling first-person stories of Jewish life and survival, a database of photographs depicting 20th century Central and Eastern European Jewish communities, and an archive of interviews about daily Jewish life experiences.

Eighteen years later, in 2025, Centropa continued to play a critical role in educating US teachers about 20th century Jewish life through in-person seminars, webinars, conference presentations, and our annual Summer Academy. But it is no longer enough. Those of us who care about countering antisemitism in this country cannot underestimate what it means to Holocaust teachers to have a community of like-minded educators who understand what they are doing and to whom they can turn for support. For example, after attending the 2025 Summer Academy with 60 teachers from 16 countries in Budapest and Belgrade, Sandi Criswell, from Ozark, MO, wrote:

The new perspective [I acquired at the Summer Academy] is that it's more important now than ever to teach about Jewish life and the Holocaust. I live and work in the Midwest...and sometimes we feel so removed from these events that students struggle to connect. However, now I can teach about all the connections we do have that I just never realized before.

When Sandi started her Holocaust class, she texted her Summer Academy colleagues on WhatsApp:

This is my first week of teaching my Holocaust unit for seniors (18-year-olds), and I have a student who is a Holocaust denier already. He also just said the n-word in class. This is going to be a long semester with him, but I'm glad to know I have the support of my Centropa group.

Her colleagues responded with supportive messages, and in May she reported back:

...that particular student has been a tough nut to crack. He and I reached a "happy medium" phase, I think, where he knows I'll challenge his statements if he doesn't have viable sources. He did take advantage of my "Lunch & Learn with a Rabbi" and asked the rabbi thoughtful questions. While the student still says things that are attention-grabbing, I like to think he's opened his mind and listened more due to our class. I know we can't change people overnight!

Centropa USA's goals are to give teachers everything they need to face the challenges they encounter in teaching about the Holocaust—as well as the moment we live in—with accurate information, compelling resources, and a network they can turn to for teaching ideas, educational materials, and encouragement.

397
STUDENTS & TEACHERS

17	6	10
STATES	WORKSHOPS	WEBINARS

In 2025, **397 teachers and students in 17 states** attended in-person **seminars, webinars, and conference presentations**, and **20 attended the Summer Academy**. We collaborated with **organizations in 11 states**: Holocaust Museum Houston, Florida Holocaust Museum, Virginia Holocaust Museum, Holocaust Center for Humanity, Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, Alabama Holocaust Education Center, Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, School District of Palm Beach County, Kean University, Michigan State University, and Carnegie Mellon University.

THE MILTON WOLF PRIZE IN STUDENT ADVOCACY

In the 1970s, Cleveland businessman Milton Wolf served as America's ambassador to Austria during the height of the Cold War, and in the 1990s—during the Bosnian war—he was President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). He made it possible for Zeyneba Hardaga—the first Muslim to receive a Righteous Among the Nations Award from Yad Vashem—and her family to escape Sarajevo.

Students doing the Milton Wolf Prize in Student Advocacy learn this story and how Sarajevo's Jews (Holocaust survivors and their children) opened their synagogue during the siege of Sarajevo to Bosnian Muslims, Catholic Croats, and Orthodox Serbs, all working together to help one another survive. Learning from Ambassador Wolf, students identify a community problem, research it, identify "the helpers" addressing the problem, create a presentation, and advocate for others to get involved.

2025 was our 11th year of doing this project, thanks to the Milton A. and Roslyn Z. Wolf Family Foundation. Between 2015 and 2025, 1,547 students came to see Milton Wolf as a role model, someone always ready to help those in need. More popular than ever, new teachers sign up and some do the project annually. As Mitch Kalin, middle school teacher in Las Vegas, NV, told us:

I have done the Milton Wolf Project with my classes for the last four years, and it has proven to be one of the, if not THE, most popular activity they do the entire year. The students are very engaged and use that engagement to make some very creative projects....they also are learning a lot and becoming better citizens. What more could a teacher ask for?

In the 2024–2025 school year, **642 students in 11 states created Milton Wolf Prize in Student Advocacy projects** about child abuse; homelessness; mental health; suicide; animal abuse; gender inequality; plastic, air, and water pollution; discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, Latinos and Blacks; immigration; underfunded education; sexual assault; poverty; gun violence; deaf awareness; food scarcity and hunger; human trafficking; abortion rights; and autism awareness, among other topics.

The Milton Wolf Prize in Student Advocacy fights apathy by teaching students how to make a difference in their communities through issues they care about.

THROUGH THE MILTON WOLF PROJECT IN STUDENT ADVOCACY STUDENTS TELL US THEY:

- learn about their communities
- develop new skills: researching, collaborating, and presenting
- experience their own voices—often for the first time
- discover there are people who want to help solve problems

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE WITH EMPATHY

A Milton Wolf Project

What does it mean to leave everything—and everyone—you know and love? This is what students learn about through *Stepping into the Future with Empathy: A Milton Wolf Project*, created by Gili Sherman, an 8th grade art teacher in Chicago. Students interview refugees or immigrants and collaborate with them to take a portrait photograph they feel conveys their story of displacement. Then, the students take photos that reflect their own responses to the displaced person's story: one student's photo of dice represents the sheer luck needed to survive; a dark, black-and-white photo of a white dog in a crate illustrates the loneliness and isolation the student felt when hearing the survivor's story.

In the 2024–2025 school year, **30 students in Greece, Moldova, and Ukraine watched Centropa's films, read interviews of Holocaust refugees, studied about refugees in their countries, and interviewed displaced people in their towns**.

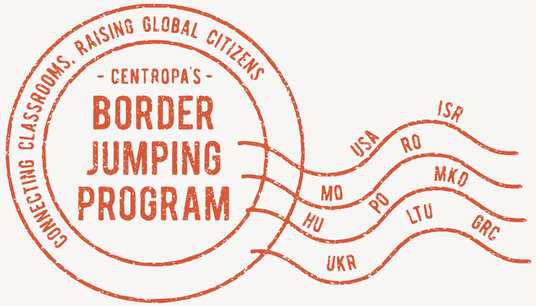
They learned what it means to keep going despite loss as interviewees shared objects precious to them, teaching students how a small item carried in a pocket means the world to someone who has lost their entire world.

In December 2025, **60 citizens attended the 13-panel photograph exhibition at the Municipal Building in Chisinau, Moldova**, created by Svetlana Kostetkaia's students based on their interview of Nadejda and Leonid, an older couple who fled from Kyiv to Chisinau in 2022. The exhibit stayed there for a month, and hundreds of others saw it, as well. Svetlana presented her version of the project to other teachers in a Centropa Teacher Feature webinar in February 2026.

"I can't even recall another educational activity that sparked as many heated discussions in the classroom and so many profound ideas and genuine feelings as during the discussion of the reflective photographs!" Svetlana Kostetskaia, Chisinau, Moldova

CONNECTING AMERICAN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN EUROPE AND ISRAEL

Centropa's international programs are not tangential to the US program, they are central to our mission and goals. As Sandi Criswell's story illustrates (p.28), keeping teachers connected with one another maintains a level of inspiration often lost as the school year wears on, and teachers want their students to have the opportunity to meet and learn with peers in other countries. Indeed, there is no better way to expand worlds and open minds, and our international programs—Border Jumping and Café Centropa: Teachers' Edition—make that happen.



BORDER JUMPING PROGRAM – Since 2007, our Border Jumping Program has introduced students from inner-city neighborhoods or rural counties to students in Europe and Israel. **In the 2024–2025 school year, 160 students participated in 8 cross-cultural projects, and 32 people** (teachers and students) attended the online Final Presentations in May.

"I will just quote my student: It is one of the most interesting projects I have ever done in my life. I learned a lot of new things about the Holocaust and the war. I now know a lot about California thanks to my partner. I feel much smarter now in terms of understanding the war and Jewish life."
Olha Taratula, Ukraine

Border Jumping deepened our exploration of themes like historical memory, cross-cultural understanding, and the legacy of the Holocaust in a way that no textbook or lecture could.... Students engaged at a deeper level, took ownership, and built critical thinking skills that are hard to reach through standard assignments. The project didn't just teach content—it transformed the classroom into a space for dialogue.
Vaidotas Pakalniškis, Vilnius, Lithuania

CAFÉ CENTROPA: TEACHERS' EDITION – Started in 2020, during Covid, Café Centropa: Teachers' Edition has continued due to popular demand. Teachers take an hour from their weekend to log on and meet in small groups to talk about whatever they want—and more than one cross-cultural project has emerged as a result! In the 2024–2025 school year, **125 teachers from 17 countries joined us over 7 sessions**, and here is why:

"This program means a lot to me. It is an important opportunity to connect to other teachers from around the world who share similar interests. It is a chance to learn and grow. It is an open forum and I love it!"
Marina Outwater, Litchfield, CT

"I LOVE this program, both for my personal knowledge and experience, and for the stories that it provides me to use, both in formal classes and in informal discussions with my students and colleagues. I love the informal aspect of the breakout rooms."
Abbey Roth, Morristown, NJ

CENTROPA SUMMER ACADEMY

Budapest & Belgrade

In July, Centropa brought together **62 educators from 16 countries across Europe, Israel, and the United States** for its annual Summer Academy (CSA). Over eight days in Budapest and Belgrade, participants explored the Centropa archive under the theme "Complicated Histories: 20th-Century Europe, the Holocaust, and the Cold War," focusing on Jewish history, the Holocaust, and the role of remembrance today.

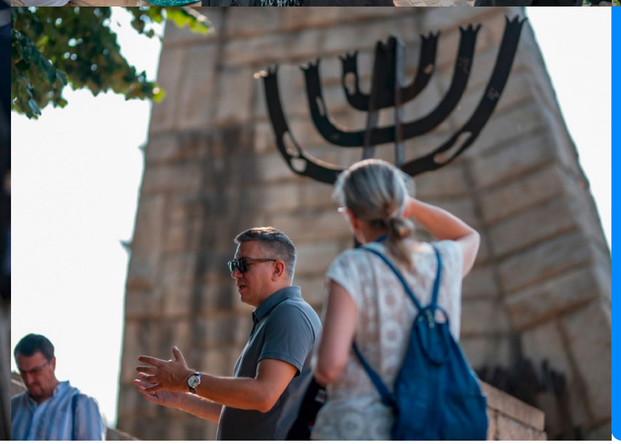
The group visited key historical sites, including the Dohány Street and Rumbach Synagogues, the Shoes on the Danube Memorial, the Holocaust Memorial Center, and Memento Park in Budapest, as well as the restored Subotica Synagogue, the former Staro Sajmište concentration camp, and the Sephardic Jewish cemetery in Belgrade. Guided visits, lectures, film screenings, and discussions with historians and local experts showed how historical places and personal stories can become meaningful learning experiences for students.

A highlight was meeting Holocaust survivors Judit Kinszki, Olga Solyom, and Vera Szekeres-Varsa, members of Café Centropa Budapest and Centropa interviewees. Their testimonies gave teachers a deeper understanding of the human experiences behind historical events.

Peer learning remains the heart of the program. Teachers from different countries exchanged perspectives on teaching difficult histories, developed lesson plans and cross-border projects in small international groups, and shared classroom initiatives in "Marketplace of Ideas" sessions. The Academy also built lasting professional relationships and strengthened Centropa's international educator network.

The impact reaches well beyond the eight days. Participants returned to their schools with new teaching materials, fresh classroom ideas, and international partnerships that will benefit thousands of students. Through Centropa's growing network, teachers continue to collaborate across borders, strengthening Holocaust education, preserving Jewish history, and promoting democratic values while combating antisemitism.

"I did not know much about the Sephardic Jews before this trip, however their connection to the Spanish speaking world and the resources on the Centropa website will help me make the topics of Jewish life to my students more relevant since most of them are Spanish speaking." Lauren Albi, 9th & 10th grade World History teacher, Los Angeles, CA



"Centropa inspired me to bring more personal stories and civic activism into my teaching. The materials and international cooperation at the Summer Academy showed how educators can work together across borders to keep memory alive and to encourage students to stand up for truth and humanity." Summer Academy Participant

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CENTROPA

Meeting our supporters and partners in the US

In October 2025, Ed, Fabian, Lauren and Mirus spent a week in the US to meet with many of our long-time supporters and partners and celebrate 25 years of Centropa preserving Jewish memory.

We kicked off our event series in New York, where we were hosted by Consul General of Austria, Thomas Schlesinger. Elisa New, Ph. D., host of the PBS show, Poetry in America, joined Ed Serotta and Marianne Hirsch, Ph.D., of Columbia University and author of *Ghosts of Home*, for a discussion on memory.

At the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C., we continued exploring memory and its preservation through Centropa's work. We were joined by Esther Safran Foer, author of the memoir, *I Want You to Know We're Still Here*, and Zachary Levine, Director of the Curatorial Affairs Division at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The third and final event brought us to Los Angeles, where we continued celebrating Centropa's 25th birthday with our host, Austrian Consul General Christine Moser. Our guest speakers were Sarah Abrevaya Stein, Ph. D. of UCLA, and author of "Family papers", and Lilya Kaganovsky, Ph. D. of UCLA.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Digital reach, engagement, and impact

Centropa's social media channels **continued to grow in 2025**, reaching new audiences and increasing engagement across platforms. Despite posting only a few times each month, our content **achieved impressive results**, which demonstrates the strong interest in Centropa's **educational storytelling**. We also **launched our TikTok account @centropajewishmemory**, where one video reached more than **431,000 views**. This highlights the platform's exciting potential for future outreach.

364.000
VIEWS ON POSTS ACROSS FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

25.000
VISITORS TO OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES

610
NEW FOLLOWERS ACROSS FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

FACEBOOK

FOLLOWERS

8588

AGE RANGE

- 18–24
- 25–34
- 35–44
- 45–54
- 55–64
- 65+

GENDER

60% FEMALE

40% MALE

TOP COUNTRIES

USA	27 %
HUNGARY	13 %
POLAND	12 %
UKRAINE	10 %
ISRAEL	9 %

TOP CITIES

BUDAPEST	31 %	WARSAW	8 %
VIENNA	15 %	BELGRADE	7 %
BERLIN	8 %		

180.000
UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITS ON WWW.CENTROPA.ORG

1.795.144
VIEWS ON TIKTOK

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FINANCES

CENTROPA INCOME 2025	EUR	USD
US Supporters	€ 693.045,51	$ 782.531,50
European Governmental Institutions	€ 430.496,47	$ 486.461,01
European Union	€ 585.353,46	$ 661.449,41
European Foundations	€ 108.849,66	$ 123.000,12
Sales & Services	€ 13.050,05	$ 14.746,56
Total	**€ 1.830.255,39**	**$ 2.068.188,59**

CENTROPA EXPENSES 2025

1. Educational Programs	EUR	USD
European Teacher Programs	€ 195.306,80	$ 220.696,68
European Youth Projects	€ 203.787,05	$ 230.279,37
European Jewish Schools Program	€ 34.800,25	$ 39.324,28
US Programs	€ 5.040,92	$ 5.696,24
University Programs	€ 46.954,81	$ 53.058,94
International Summer Academy	€ 99.663,24	$ 112.619,46
Total Educational Programs	**€ 585.553,07**	**$661.674,97**

2. Digital Education & Media	EUR	USD
Podcasts	€ 4.766,31	$ 5.385,93
Apps	€ 30.000,00	$ 33.900,00
Websites	€ 17.072,76	$ 19.292,22
Total Digital Education and Media	**€ 51.839,07**	**$ 58.578,15**

3. Public History and Exhibitions	EUR	USD
Exhibitions	€ 29.906,16	$ 33.793,96
Public Events / Café Centropa	€ 25.836,56	$ 29.195,31
Historical Projects	€ 1.204,94	$ 1.361,58
Total Public History and Exhibitions	**€ 56.947,66**	**$64.350,86**

4. Ukraine Programs	EUR	USD
Teacher Support	€ 17.110,00	$ 19.334,30
Ukrainian Educational Activities	€ 83.319,42	$ 94.150,94
Total Ukraine Programs	**€ 100.429,42**	**$ 113.485,24**

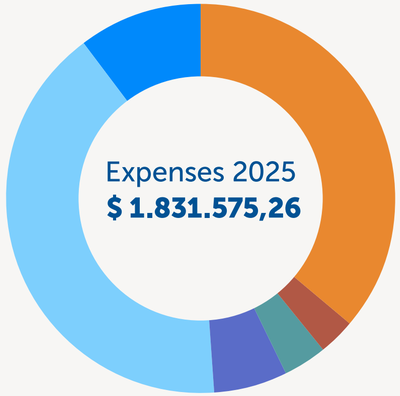
5. Personnel	EUR	USD
Staff Gross Salaries	€ 420.747,96	$ 475.445,19
Staff Payroll Taxes & Contributions	€ 224.869,27	$ 254.102,28
Country Coordinators	€ 13.700,00	$ 15.481,00
Freelancers	€ 1.200,00	$ 1.356,00
Total Personnel	**€ 660.517,23**	**$ 746.384,47**

6. Administration and Operations	EUR	USD
Office Rent	€ 36.048,76	$ 40.735,10
Office Running Costs	€ 20.325,83	$ 22.968,19
IT Infrastructure	€ 10.867,78	$ 12.280,59
Accounting & Legal Services	€ 33.398,09	$ 37.739,84
Insurance & Bank Charges	€ 17.741,55	$ 20.047,95
Equipment & Office Supplies	€ 14.106,35	$ 15.940,18
Fundraising & Donor Relations	€ 33.088,25	$ 37.389,72
Total Administration and Operations	**€ 165.576,61**	**$ 187.101,57**

Total	**€ 1.620.863,06**	**$ 1.831.575,26**

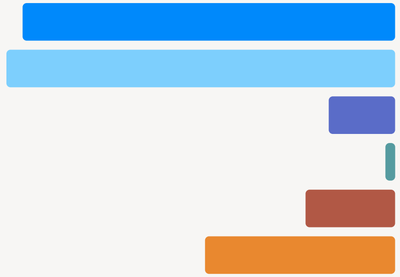
Total Income

- US Supporters
- European Governmental Institutions
- European Union
- European Foundations
- Sales & Services



Total Expenses

- Administration and Operations
- Personnel
- Ukraine Programs
- Public History and Exhibitions
- Digital Education and Media
- Educational Programs



Expenses Educational Programs

- European Teacher Programs
- European Youth Projects
- European Jewish Schools Program
- US Programs
- University Programs
- International Summer Academy

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