

Traces of Jewish life in Opatow, Poland

21/4

21st April - the day in Cracow began with visiting the Galicia Jewish Museum, which is the official patronage of our project. The Museum is situated in Cracovian District Kazimierz, in the centre of the former Jewish district, which was created to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to present the history and the culture of Jews as well as the Jewish tradition and heritage in the south of Poland. The students had a chance to visit the Old Synagogue – one of the oldest synagogues in Poland and one of the most precious monuments of Jewish sacral architecture in Europe. Moreover, they could see the Remuh Synagogue where regular services take place. After a walk along Cracow alleys and a traditional Israeli dish in Hamsa Restaurant, the students and the teachers followed the route from the Wawel Royal Castle to the Old Town with its Renaissance cloth hall Sukienice and St Mary's Basilica.

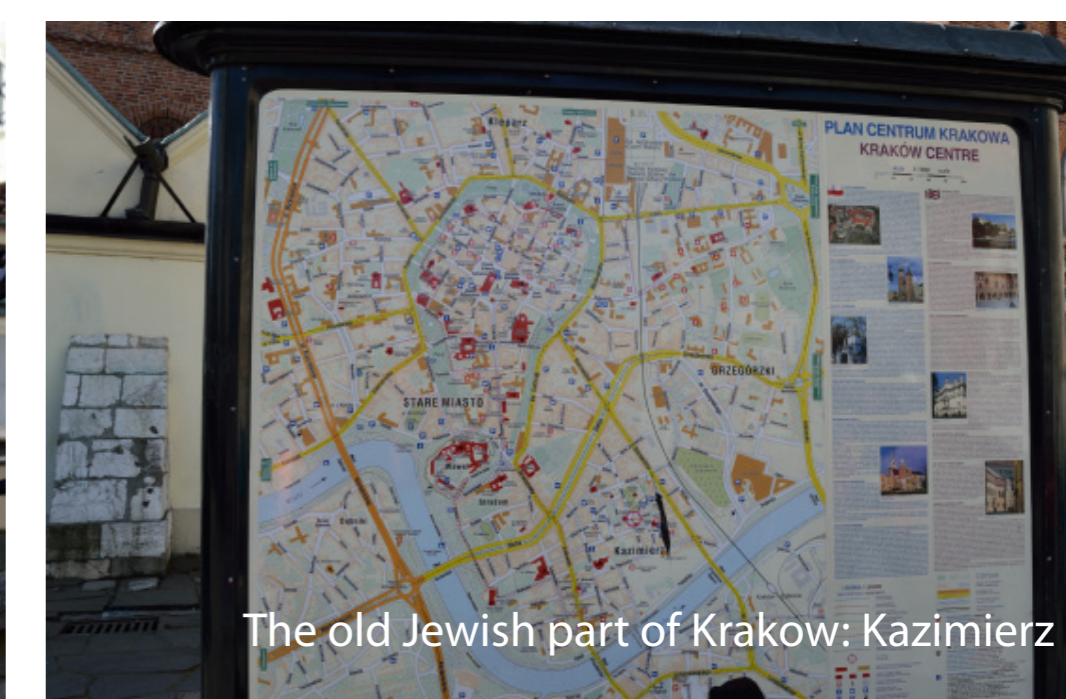
During the afternoon workshop in the Galicia Museum, the participants took part in a lesson of Hebrew calligraphy, the skill which used to be practised only by Jewish men. They could learn how to hold a feather, produce ink and write Hebrew letters; everybody had a chance to calligraph their name and take their works as a souvenir.

Another attraction was a lesson of Yiddish, a language spoken before the war by three quarters of Jews around the world. Singing the Yiddish song Shnirele Perele together will remain in the memory of the participants for a long time.

In the evening, inside the stylish Museum the concert of Klezmer trio took place. It was a wonderful experience after a very emotional day, also thanks to the workers of the Museum who showed their full engagement and enthusiasm.



Visiting Krakow



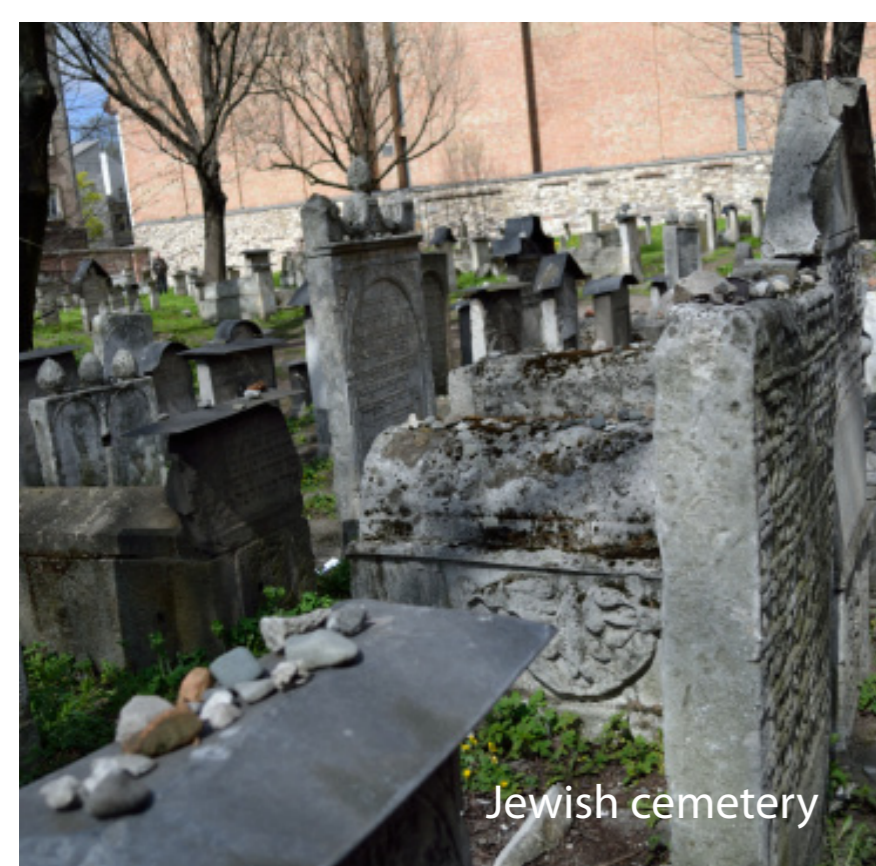
The old Jewish part of Krakow: Kazimierz



The old Jewish part of Krakow: Kazimierz



At the synagogue



Jewish cemetery



Workshop



Klezmer-Concert



22/4

The second day of the trip (22nd April) was devoted to visiting the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, the symbol of the Holocaust, where 1,1 million Jews were murdered. In Auschwitz there were the first experiments of murdering people by using pesticide Zyklon B. It was also in Auschwitz where the first mass transports of prisoners were killed, where murderous experiments on people were made and where prisoners were shot. In Birkenau, where almost 1 million Jews were killed, we can see most of weapons of mass destruction. Birkenau was the biggest concentration camp, where on 200ha there are the ruins of gas chambers, places with human ashes, primitive bunkhouses and kilometers of fence and roads. Young Europeans lit symbolic torches next to the Wall of Death.



The gate of Auschwitz



Tribute to the victims of the NS-Regime



Main prison of Auschwitz



Looking into a barrack - Auschwitz-Birkenau