

Country Name: **CROATIA**

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
Existing Projects	<p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) Claims Conference project</p> <p>(2) http://www.nsk.hr/en/manuscripts-book-and-codices-of-the-jewish-community-in-croatia-to-be-registered/ (last accessed January 2016)</p> <p>Books, manuscripts and codices written in Hebrew and other Jewish languages which are preserved in Croatian archives and libraries will be registered as part of an ongoing project organized by the Croatian Ministry of Culture, the National and University Library in Zagreb, the National Library of Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, with participation by the Jewish communities of Croatia. An agreement between the National Library of Israel and the National and University Library in Zagreb was signed in October 2013.</p> <p>The vast majority of these books and manuscripts were plundered by the Ustashe and the Nazis during World War II. Along with review of relevant German and other historical documentation, activities under this agreement are part of a pilot study to try to determine what was taken during the Holocaust, what was returned, and what is still missing for an entire country.</p> <p>See under Publications discussion of work within this project regarding the Šik Library and other books and manuscripts held at the Jewish Community of Zagreb.</p>	
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	
	Publications	<p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>(1) Koš, Julia. "Lavoslav Šik i njegova knjižnica. Dva stoljeća povijesti i kulture židova u Zagrebu i Hrvatskoj." <i>ŽOZ</i>, 1998, pp 78-83.</p> <p>(2) Croatia Delegation Statement in <i>Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, November 30-December 3, 1998: Proceedings</i>. Washington, DC, 1999, pp. 231-240</p> <p>In 1959 the library belonging to Dr. Lavoslav Šik was returned to the Jewish Community in Zagreb, and in 1989 his private archives were also returned. Also in 1989, 7000 books were returned to the same institution under an agreement between the Jewish Community in Zagreb and the National and University Library, dated 4 October 1990.</p> <p>In 2013, Dr. Aviad Stollman of the National Library of Israel reviewed the holdings of the Jewish Community of Zagreb. He noted that Šik's library includes 5,225 books and several hundred volumes of bound periodicals, mostly in German and constituting a basic academic collection of pre-war Judaica. However, the more than 7,000 additional books are uncatalogued and are Hebrew rare or semi-rare books, many from the 19th century, some from the 18th century, and at least 3 from the 16th century, and approximately 40% of the books are signed or inscribed. Many of the books appear to have been brought to Croatia by Jews fleeing Germany and elsewhere. As part of the project described above regarding books, manuscripts and codices written in Hebrew and other Jewish languages that are in Croatian archives and libraries, these books are being catalogued with the assistance of the National Library of Israel.</p> <p>As of 2015, the Jewish Community of Zagreb and the National Library of Israel completed an initial pilot run on how they will catalog the 7,000 books in Jewish</p>

		<p>languages that are now in the Jewish Community of Zagreb. Approximately 10% of the volumes have been unknown to the National Library of Israel, or in other words 700 titles. Eventually the first list of identifying information, such as photographs and other provenance information, might lead to future restitutions.</p> <p>In the meantime, several examples of titles can be found within the online catalogue of the National Library, i.e.: http://primo.nli.org.il/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?vid=NLI&docId=NNL_ALEPH001978230</p> <p><i>Dubrovnik synagogue museum</i> Source: (1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dubrovnik_Synagogue, last accessed 24 November 2015.</p> <p>The museum holds valuable Torah scrolls. During the 1992 Yugoslav conflict the roof of the synagogue was hit by artillery shelter. In response, the community packed up its valuable items and shipped them to Yeshiva University in New York. A court ruling in 1998 determined that the treasures had to be returned to the community in Dubrovnik. (Today the museum/synagogue is very small and there is neither a permanent rabbi nor online presence.)</p>
	Information from Other Sources	<p><u>Source:</u></p> <p>(1) Croatia Delegation Statement in Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, November 30-December 3, 1998: Proceedings. Washington, DC, 1999, pp. 231-240.</p> <p>During the initial period of work of “KOMZA” – Commission for the gathering and protection of cultural monuments and antiquities (1945-1954), the Museum for Arts and Crafts in Zagreb received Judaica.</p> <p>(2) http://www.provenanceresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/PRTP-Zagreb-Report_list-of-attendees_final_07052013_bb.pdf (last accessed on 1 June 2014)</p> <p>The second workshop of the European Shoah Legacy Institute’s Provenance Research Training Program was held in Zagreb March 10-15, 2013.</p>
	Historical Commission	No.
Selected Bibliography	→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.	
Notes		