

Country Name: **SERBIA**

Looted Judaica and Judaica with Provenance Gaps in Country		Yes
Existing Projects		
Overview	Looted Cultural Property Databases	
	Publications	<p><i>Slomovic collection</i> <u>Sources:</u> (1) D'Arcy, David. "The Mysterious Mr. Slomovic". <i>The Artnewspaper</i> (http://artnet.com/magazineus/features/darcy/darcy1-10-07.asp?print=1; last accessed June 2014.) (2) Perry, Victor. <i>Stolen Art</i>. Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing House, 2000. (3) Information provided by Miodrag Certic, 19 March 2014. (See also: http://erich-slomovic.com/, last visited June 2014)</p> <p>The Slomovic collection is currently held by the National Museum in Belgrade. The very valuable collection, stolen from Erih Slomovic, a Jewish Croatian murdered during the Second World War, consists of acclaimed impressionist paintings. It is very unlikely that this collection also holds Judaica.</p> <p>Mr. Slomovic's personal diary, in which he might have recorded any purchased Judaica, was stolen and is believed to be in possession of a private collector in Belgrade.</p> <p><i>Ante Topic Mimara Collection</i> <u>Source:</u> (1) Akinsha, Konstantin. "The Master Swindler of Yugoslavia". <i>ARTnews</i>, Volume 100/Number 8, September 2001.</p> <p>The Ante Topic Mimara collection: By December 1948, the work at the Central Collecting Point in Munich was in its last stages, and most of the claims had been processed when Ante Topic Mimara claimed to be the Yugoslav government's representative in charge of restitution and asked for 166 objects, described in seven lists. The 166 objects mentioned in the seven lists—including 56 paintings—were released to Mimara in late May and early June of 1949. According to research carried out by Konstantin Akinsha, some of these items are now located in the museums of Belgrade and Zagreb and were presumably looted from Holocaust victims in France, Holland, etc. [In 1987, the Yugoslav government purchased part of Ante Mimara's collection and opened a museum with great fanfare, calling it the "Zagreb Louvre." One object on display in the museum can be matched to the list of those erroneously restituted to Mimara in Munich. It is a painted-glass Venetian wedding cup of the 17th century that was in the collection of Hermann Goering.]</p> <p><i>Please see section on Croatia. Please see section on Russian Federation for Jewish Archival holdings at the RGVA archive.</i></p>
	Information from Other Sources	The Jewish community does not appear to have information regarding Torah scrolls or other holy objects that are inappropriately held in state archives or museums. Some Jewish property restituted to communities in Yugoslavia after the

		war was subsequently donated to the Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade.
	Historical Commission	
Selected Bibliography	<p>→ Please note that the general literature may also contain information on the specific country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Akinsha, Konstantin. “The Master Swindler of Yugoslavia”. <i>ARTnews</i>, September 2001. (http://www.artnews.com/issues/article.asp?art_id=975, last accessed June 2014.) ▪ D’Arcy, David. “The Mysterious Mr. Slomovic”. <i>The Artnewspaper</i> (http://artnet.com/magazineus/features/darcy/darcy1-10-07.asp?print=1; last accessed on June 2014) ▪ Perry, Victor. <i>Stolen Art</i>. Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing House, 2000. ▪ “The Looting of Jewish and Cultural Objects in Former Yugoslavia. The HAG Südosten & the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg in Belgrade, Agram (Zagreb) and Ragusa (Dubrovnik).” Report prepared by the Claims Conference and WJRO, June 2012. (Online accessible at: http://art.claimscon.org/policy/records-of-the-einsatzstab-reichsleiter-rosenberg-err/) 	
Notes	<p>Serbia passed a restitution law in 2006 which enables the restitution of immovable property. In terms of moveable property, Article 15 notes that “<i>moveable items of cultural, historical or artistic significance shall be returned to the ownership of the church or religious community and if they are a constituent part of the collection of a public museum, gallery or similar institution, agreement regarding their continued used between the church or religious community and the holder of the item are defined by contract.</i>” The law set a deadline of September 30, 2008 for claims of such property. There is currently discussion in Serbia of a new law in regard to heirless property that would also cover movable cultural property.</p>	