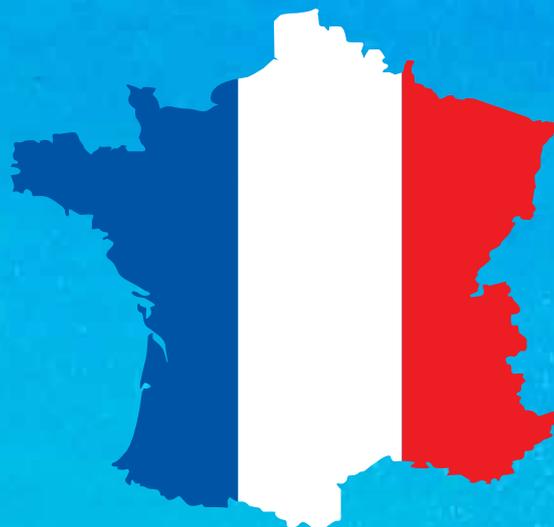


SECURING THE JEWISH FUTURE IN FRANCE

PREPARED BY THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL

JUNE 2016

We are pleased to provide, ahead of the Board of Governors meetings in Paris, a profile of the French Jewish community and summary of our activities in France.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF FRENCH JEWRY

After hundreds of years of severe oppression and periods of expulsion, French Jews became the first to be given equal rights, in 1791, two years after the French Revolution. In 1808, Napoleon established the *Consistoire* religious council to liaise between the government and the Jewish community. (The Consistoire exists to this day, but its role has changed.) The French expected the Jews to be “Jewish at home, citizen outside,” and the Jews aspired to embody this model of “nation by citizenry,” which persists today. Their efforts were extraordinarily successful, and many Jews made important contributions in politics, academia, finances, and the arts. Despite their wide-reaching integration, anti-Semitism still lingered, as evidenced by the Dreyfuss Affair in 1894, and in the early 1940’s, the policies of the Vichy regime.

The Nazis occupied France in 1940 and brought the Jewish population from 320,000 to 180,000. Around 90,000 Jews were killed. After the war, some Jews returned, along with Jews from elsewhere who chose to settle in France, and re-established the community with great success.

In the 1950’s and 60’s, as droves of Jews left North Africa, many settled in France, mainly from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt. From 1945 to 1970, French Jewry nearly doubled. Over the last several decades, the government of France has taken action in fighting anti-Semitism by education and legislation. At the same time, Zionism has gained popularity, and the French Jewish community are staunch supporters of the State of Israel.

The Jewish Agency wishes to recognize and thank **Keren Hayesod /UIA of France** for their generous funding and activity on our behalf.

FRENCH JEWRY TODAY

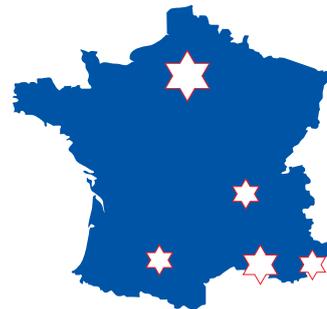
WORLD'S LARGEST JEWISH COMMUNITIES



JEWISH POPULATION IN FRANCE SHRINKING & AGING



230 JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN FRANCE



The largest is Paris, Marseilles is a far 2nd, with Toulouse, Lyon & Nice at a far 3rd

OBSERVANCE LEVELS



36%
French Jews are observant

64%
French Jews are non-observant

Young Jews are more likely than older ones to be observant

FRENCH JEWS IDENTIFY AS

41%
SEPHARDI

26%
ASHKENAZI

PERSONAL FINANCES



25,500
(approx. \$28,400)

Average annual income in France

28%
French Jews who say they find it difficult to cope on their income

JEWISH EDUCATION

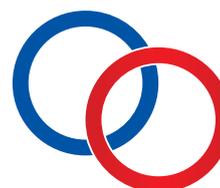


13%
French Jewish families with a child enrolled in Jewish day school

8
Active Jewish and Zionist youth movements

15,000
University students involved in Jewish student organizations

INTERMARRIAGE



45%
and rising

JEWISH INSTITUTIONS

- **United Jewish Communities of France (the Consistoire Central):** oversees synagogues, rabbinate, *mikvehs*, *kasbrut*, marriage, cemeteries, circumcisions, informal Jewish education, etc.
- **United Jewish Social Fund (FSJU):** has 300 member organizations, and supports hundreds of programs in the areas of Jewish formal and informal education, culture, and social welfare.
- **Representative Council for French Jewry (CRIF):** a political umbrella of social and political organizations that liaises with the French government, with a focus on fighting anti-Semitism, expressing solidarity with Israel, and preserving memories of the Holocaust.
- **Keren Hayesod /UIA of France**

ANTI-SEMITISM IN FRANCE

Jews are integrated into French society. In the past, there were relatively small levels of anti-Semitism and some Holocaust denial, but in recent years the number and degree of anti-Semitic acts has increased dramatically.

The Jewish Community Security Service criticizes trends in the French media and in the Jewish community for their focus on what Jews should do to minimize danger—for example, should they stop wearing *kippot*?—rather than how criminals can be stopped. In general, Jews trust the government to take events seriously but are divided about the efficiency and impact of government measures.

BY THE NUMBERS

FROM 2013-2015:

97% INCREASE

in the number of acts or attempts at anti-Jewish terror, murder, physical violence, arson, defacing and vandalism

89% INCREASE

in the number of threats, insults, hate mail and anti-semitic graffiti

68% OF FRENCH JEWS

say they "do not feel safe anywhere in France" (compared to 58% of the general French population)

63% OF FRENCH JEWS

say they have been insulted for being Jewish

51% OF FRENCH JEWS

say they have been threatened for being Jewish

43% OF FRENCH JEWS

say they have been assaulted for being Jewish

51% OF JEWISH PARENTS

say they often fear their child will be insulted for being Jewish

37% OF JEWISH PARENTS

say they often fear their child will be assaulted for being Jewish

JEWS REPRESENT LESS THAN 1% OF THE FRENCH POPULATION

but are the target of

49% OF VIOLENT RACIST ACTS

59% OF FRENCH JEWS

have friends or relatives who have recently emigrated from the country



57% OF FRENCH JEWS

have considered emigration (compared to 43% of the general French population)

SECURING THE JEWISH FUTURE IN FRANCE: JEWISH AGENCY ACTIVITIES

The issues of highest priority on the agenda of the French community are:

- How will France handle growing jihadism, and how can Jews protect themselves?
- Growing unease about remaining in France, due to anti-Semitism and the stagnation of the French economy (24% of the population under age 28 is unemployed).
- The need for leadership development among young Jews.
- The trend in the consistories to become more Orthodox and strict, and growing rifts between Orthodox and liberal Jewish communities.

The Jewish Agency works closely with France's Jewish community to address their challenges, with a focus on *Aliyah*, physical security, and Jewish education.

ALIYAH

France's Jews have a deeply embedded culture of passionate Zionism. The combination of Zionism with anti-Semitism and a stagnant economy has led to a dramatic rise in Aliyah. In 2015, 43% of French Jews reported that they have thought about making Aliyah.

NUMBER OF FRENCH OLIM, 2012-2016



*Expected as of May 2016

FRANCE FIRST

Israel's Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption has made Aliyah from France a significant priority, and is investing accordingly into our joint "France First" initiative, making it possible for The Jewish Agency to expand programming and human resources there. We have been working together on "France First" for three years and have enjoyed a close partnership with the Ministry in increasing the volume of activity in France—including for young people and students—and introducing new tools and services to support potential olim through every step of the immigration and absorption process.

PRE-ALIYAH SERVICES

Managing the immigration of 7,800 people to Israel in one year, as we did in 2015, requires tremendous planning. Our *shlichim* and our Global Call Center opened new Aliyah files for 9,746 future French *olim*, and ran Aliyah fairs that attracted members of 10,000 households.

60+%
of French participants
MAKE ALIYAH
subsequent to their Masa program

Masa Israel Journey is crucial in helping young French Jews prepare to live in Israel.

MASA PARTICIPANTS FROM FRANCE, 2012 - 2016



110 MASA PROGRAMS
have French participants in 2016

44 MASA PROGRAMS
are specifically for French speakers

14 MASA PROGRAMS
for French speakers were developed in the last two years to meet growing demand

POST-ALIYAH SERVICES

The Jewish Agency provides many acculturation services for new olim after they make Aliyah— with a growing focus on immigrants from France. Thousands of French olim benefit from:

- Residential Absorption Programs for olim aged 18-35
- Wings: Comprehensive services for lone soldiers
- Magen (New Program): Professional training for young adults from France
- Moreshet (New Program): Ulpan plus Judaism course for young, French, non-halachically Jewish immigrants who wish to convert
- Absorption Centers and assistance registering for temporary municipal apartments
- “At Home Together”: Israeli volunteers assisting new immigrants

FRENCH-ISRAELIS: SECURING THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

Currently, more than 200,000 French Jews live in Israel, and the number is growing rapidly. French olim live mainly in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Netanya, Ashdod, and Be’er Sheva, and their influence on Israeli cuisine, arts, fashion, and other aspects of culture are increasingly being felt. A 2015 study in the journal *International Migration* showed that “in general, French immigrants feel at home in Israel, are satisfied with their life in Israel and plan to remain there.”

PHYSICAL SECURITY

In 2014 and 2015, The Jewish Agency's Emergency Assistance Fund allocated nearly \$1.5 Million to help French Jewish institutions increase their security, so that Jewish life there can continue in greater safety. Thanks to the assistance from the fund:

- 10 Jewish schools around France are installing emergency intercom systems
- A Jewish school in Toulouse installed perimeter fencing
- The Keren Hayesod office in Marseille installed CCTV, alarms, and security doors
- 12 other institutions installed perimeter fencing, CCTV, alarms and security doors

Additionally, we are helping 16 Jewish schools maintain security guards. Our Security Office continues to work closely with French Jewish communities to assess their needs.

JEWISH AND ZIONIST EDUCATION

**YOUTH
EDUCATION**



**YOUNG
ADULT
EDUCATION**

Global School Twinning is in development with Israel's Education Ministry, to pair Jewish schools in France with Israeli schools that have many French olim.

Shlichim provide educational and pre-Aliyah services for Jews of all ages. Several of those in France are Youth Movement shlichim, bringing the Zionist spirit through Bnei Akiva, Habonim Dror, and Hashomer Hatzza'ir.

Zayit Curriculum, initiated and developed by The Jewish Agency, is used in 13 Jewish schools for 11th and 12th graders.

Bac Bleu Blanc, the annual senior class Israel trip, is organized by The Jewish Agency's Israel Experiences Ltd. for around 1,000 teens each year.

Campus Advocacy: To address campus anti-Semitism we have increased our delegation of Campus Fellows from one to three. All over France, they organize activities, *Shabbatonim*, and alliances with campus groups, and promote Israel Experiences.

Post-Taglit Programming: French participation in Taglit-Birthright rose from 100 in 2013 to 1,400 in 2014 and 2,120 in 2015. In response, The Jewish Agency has greatly increased the activities it provides Taglit alumni.

Sources:

Jessica Philippe Consulting, "Jews in France Survey," March 2016 (official English translation)

Jewish Community Security Service, "2015 Report on Antisemitism in France" (with statistics by the French Ministry of Interior and SPCJ)

The Jewish Agency for Israel, Delegation to France and the Office of the Deputy Director General for Community Services, "Background Facts About the Jewish Community in France" (Hebrew document), March 2016

"World Jewish Population, 1990" in American Jewish Yearbook, 1992, published by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society



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