

PRESS RELEASE

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UCY Announces Re-launch of Jewish Studies Project

*Fostering a fruitful and long lasting collaboration between UCY and Israeli Embassy &
Strengthening Cyprus - Israeli bilateral relations*

University of Cyprus and Israeli Embassy signed a Letter of Intent on Monday, December 5th 2016, to renew the Jewish Studies Project (JSP) and resume the Programme of Teaching and Research on Jewish Studies. The signing ceremony was held at the UCY Campus, in the presence of Her Excellency Yael Ravia Zadok, the Israeli Ambassador, UCY Rector Professor Constantinos Christofides and Programme Leader Associate Professor George Kazamias.

The Project based in the UCY Department of History and Archeology was initially launched in 2013. Its ultimate aim is to increase the bilateral awareness of the peoples of Cyprus and Israel, allowing them to place each other and the wider region in their respective historical context, while emphasizing the common paths their history offers. JSP has contributed to the expansion of existing activities in the field, placing them under one roof. It has also contributed to the development of the Jewish Research and Teaching Centre, the first one to be operating in Cyprus and the Greek-speaking world at large, and more generally, in the non-Israeli parts of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The UCY graduates and post-graduates are given the opportunity to enhance their knowledge on issues concerning, inter alia, the relations between Greeks and Jews in history, regional trade relations in the Ancient, Mediaeval and Contemporary period, the Holocaust, the problems and challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in the contemporary era, the Jewish

presence in Cyprus etc. In addition, students, academics and other interested parties might attend various conferences planned to be organized on subjects of interest to Jewish Studies.

Commenting initially on the fruitful outcome of the UCY Rector's visit to Israel in February 2016, the Israeli Ambassador in her short address has said additionally that: *"This new agreement marks an important step forward in strengthening the long-lasting collaboration between the two entities in various fields of mutual interest and generally between the two neighbor states. Investment in youth is a priority, since it enhances the development of close ties between the future leaders, professionals and scientists of the two countries"*.

UCY Rector in his statement has emphasized the significance of both scientific and historic knowledge acquisition, and made a reference to the excellent work carried out by the PhD student Evangelia Matthopoulou for her doctoral entitled *"The Presence of Jewish in Cyprus, 1878-1949 – Ideological and socio-political transformations, entrepreneurship and innovation in a colonial context"*, which is about to be published in English, with UCY funding.

End of Announcement