





#### Preserving the Past Shaping the Future



#### **Jewish Heritage is Important**

 The Jewish People have produced a vast and remarkable cultural heritage

• Sites of Jewish heritage are repositories of life, art and customs with many unique and beautifully constructed buildings



#### Jewish Heritage is at Risk

• At beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, 9 out of 10 Jewish people lived in Europe, today it is 1 out of 10.

• The Jewish people no longer 'live where they had lived'



#### Why Jewish Heritage Matters

- Don't know your past, you don't have a future
- Recognising the lost communities
- Education and inter-cultural dialogue
- Combating prejudice
- These are glorious buildings!





# Foundation for Jewish Heritage

#### Research

• creating an inventory of Jewish heritage sites

• identifying the most important most at risk

#### **Advocacy**

• making the case for Jewish cultural heritage

promoting interest in specific sites

#### **Expertise**

• providing professional advice and guidance to create sustainable solutions for vulnerable sites

working with and through local partners

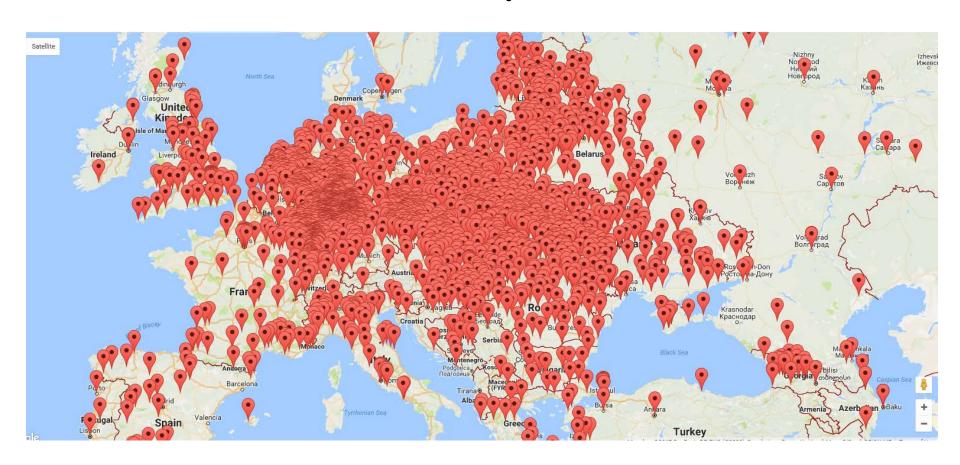
 developing knowledge and expertise in Jewish heritage preservation

#### Resources

 helping to secure funding for Jewish heritage sites at risk

 ensuring these sites are preserved, given a contemporary purpose, and saved for the future

## Mapping the historic synagogues of Europe



#### Goals

- Comprehensive and strategic approach to preservation of Jewish heritage
- Inventory of all the historic synagogues of Europe
- Evaluation of their significance and physical state of preservation
- Identifying which significant synagogues are at risk

#### Scope

 'Historic synagogues' are defined as all pre-World War Two structures and the most important post-War synagogues

• 48 countries of Europe covered by the research

#### **Key Findings**

3,318 historic synagogues in Europe (17,000 before World War 2 – 19%)

718 functioning synagogues (22%)

757 synagogues at risk (23%)



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