MAHAR NO. 5

This was our fifth Mahar Conference and I might say it was all we expected. Many of those who took leap of faith and helped us five years ago were our guests in Budva for this anniversary. We are extremely grateful.

“Mahar” the biggest Jewish Conference in South East Europe. It takes place every autumn in Hotel Avala, Budva - Montenegro. The Conference is organized by the Jewish Community of Montenegro with the support of [World Jewish Congress](https://www.facebook.com/WorldJewishCong/?fref=mentions) (WJC), Euro-Asian Jewish Congress (EAJC), [JDC](https://www.facebook.com/TheJDC/?fref=mentions) , KKL-JNF and the Government of Montenegro.

Over 400 participants from 15 countries are attending “Mahar”, and it makes it the most important Jewish event in this part of the world. Speakers at the grand opening are members of diplomatic corps, government officials, and state ministers, as well as the members from the donor organizations.

The conference is attended by delegates from Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Kosovo, Turkey, and as far away as Hungary.

Mahar is aimed at strengthening the cultural identity and community of Jews around the region and their relationship with Israel. This is a unique conference because it is made “by the Jewish people, for the Jewish people” – our guests are youngsters, families, teenagers but also senior Jews from the whole Balkan and SEE region. Three days of “Mahar” are great opportunity for them to get to know each other, keep good company, listen to Jewish music, and celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat together. Last but not least, with relevant panelists and interesting panel topics “Mahar” is a place to learn something new, whether it is about Israel, history or Diaspora affairs and challenges. We are giving our guests the opportunity to have formal or less formal conversations with the most important figures of Jewish organizations around the world.

This conference is different from all the others because everything is on voluntary basis - participants can enjoy the panels, or goes outside to sit in the sun, talk to each other, and make new friendships, connections and collaborations. Our panelists are top level in every way, but our guests will meet them at lunch or dinner - no special protocols and no extra VIP treatment.

About the [Jewish community of Montenegro-Jevrejska zajednica Crne Gore](https://www.facebook.com/JewishCommunityofMontenegro/?fref=mentions)

One of the “youngest” Jewish Communities in the world, Jewish Community of Montenegro was formed in 2011. Our Community is a member of WJC (World Jewish Congress) and EAJC (Euro-Asian Jewish Congress).

We are very proud and happy that Montenegrin government donated a land for the site of the first Synagogue in our country and foundation will be laid during next month. Just a few days ago piece of land in our capital city Podgorica was allocated for the Jewish cemetery, that project is planned for 2019.

From Facebook Jelena Đurović

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK_LN3XEcnw>