



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Though the fate of the best laid plans of mice and men comes to mind when looking back at Limmud FSU's activities in 2023, in fact we can reflect on a considerable level of achievement: First ever Limmud in Berlin, Baku, Lublin for Ukraine, Tel Aviv, and more - despite the wars in Israel and Ukraine. Conferences of Jewish learning, celebrations of Jewish community, expressions of Jewish belonging and mutual support, despite geopolitical and security obstacles.

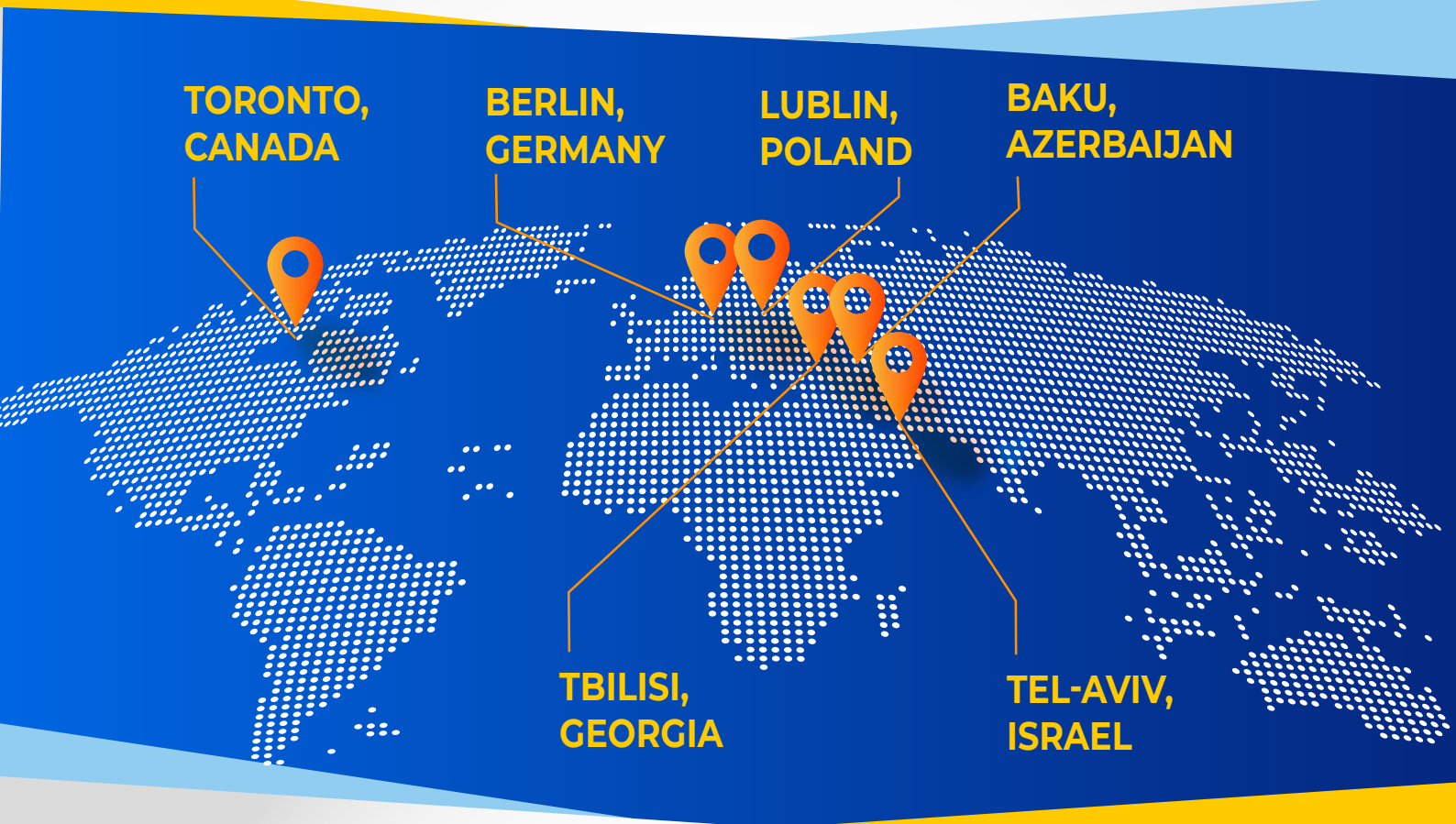
The feedback we've received this year was a heartwarming testimony to the importance of our programming, to the fact that we offer the FSU Jews around the globe unparalleled opportunities to learn together and from each other, and to celebrate their unique Jewish background, opportunities that offer clear paths to Jewish leadership and engagement.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers and activists: Limmud FSU depends on them, Limmud FSU is them. No less, without our donors and supporters, Limmud FSU could never realize our dreams and plans. We owe you all a great debt of thanks.



LIMMUD FSU THROUGH NUMBERS

In 2023, we hosted the third Limmud FSU Europe event in Berlin, with 800 participants from 25 countries. In Baku, Azerbaijan, we brought together 300 participants. The event in Lublin, Poland, united 150 attendees from Ukraine for a conference on Jewish learning and offering support. Meanwhile, in Tel Aviv, 150 volunteers gathered for a special event to address the challenges in the time of war. Additionally, we hosted a series of communal and leadership development events around the globe, underscoring our commitment to community, Jewish learning and the State of Israel.



DONORS AND PARTNERS

We want to say a special thank you to all our philanthropic supporters – without you, this would not be possible. Thank you for believing in Limmud FSU. Our success is thanks to your support.

LIMMUD FSU DONORS AND PARTNERS

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LIMMUD FSU CONFERENCES

LIMMUD FSU BERLIN

Approximately 800 Jews from across Germany and 24 other countries, including Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Finland, the UK, Israel, and the USA, attended the third Limmud FSU Europe conference. This was the first-ever event of its kind held in Berlin. Among the participants were 50 Limmudniks from Ukraine, some of whom still reside in the embattled country, while others have sought refuge from the war in Israel and various parts of central and western Europe.

The conference featured 130 sessions covering diverse topics such as bringing Nazi criminals to justice, exploring the concept of the afterlife in Jewish thought, examining how Jewish history is taught in different countries, and discussing the Jewish tradition's stance on war. Workshops on creating perfumes, a review of Jewish women who served as models for masterpiece works of art, the revival of the Hebrew language, and Israel dancing were also included. Artistic performances featured the Ukrainian hip-hop group FO SHO, whose members are Ukrainian-Ethiopian Jews originally from Kharkiv.



LIMMUD FSU CONFERENCES



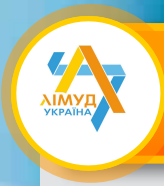
LIMMUD FSU BAKU

For the second time in only nine months, 300 Jews in Baku had the opportunity to participate in a Limmud FSU conference. The program offered a wide range of topics, including design, marketing, cybersecurity, ecology, Israel, psychology, law, the history of Jewish communities in Azerbaijan, and the fate of Jews in the Caucasus Mountains during the Holocaust. Art workshops focused on decorating dishes, painting on glass, making jewelry, and exploring Azerbaijani wines, among others.

One of the main event speakers was Israel's ambassador to Azerbaijan, George Deek, who discussed the relationship between the two countries. He emphasized the importance of a strong military, a vibrant economy, and good friends for a country's success, highlighting Azerbaijan as one of Israel's closest allies.



LIMMUD FSU CONFERENCES



LIMMUD FSU UKRAINE

In Lublin, Poland, 150 Jews from various cities in Ukraine gathered for the Limmud FSU Ukraine conference on Jewish learning. This event was particularly significant due to the backdrop of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the war Israel is fighting against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Sessions ranged from a photographic presentation of the war in Ukraine to an evening of stories written during that war. Other topics included famous Jews from Ukraine, discussions about the release of hostages in Jewish classical sources, and a lecture on the city's 600 years of Jewish history. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to visit the Majdanek Nazi concentration and death camp located just outside the city. The conference provided important informal opportunities for attendees to discuss the ongoing wars in Israel and Ukraine, support each other, and decompress.



LIMMUD FSU CONFERENCES



LIMMUD FSU ISRAEL

Following the ongoing war in Israel since October 7th, there was a strong desire for unity, emotional support, and understanding of the situation through relevant learning. In Tel Aviv, 150 volunteers from Limmud FSU Israel gathered for a special event that served as both a heartwarming statement of resilience and a commitment to mutual support during times of war.

The event offered sessions and discussions on topics such as the global rise of antisemitism, antisemitism on US college campuses, the reasons why the Holocaust has become a central theme in discussions about the war, and the role of the UN and the Red Cross in the legal aspects of the war. The program also included art masterclasses to express feelings and support, as well as cultural performances that addressed the events and experiences of the war.



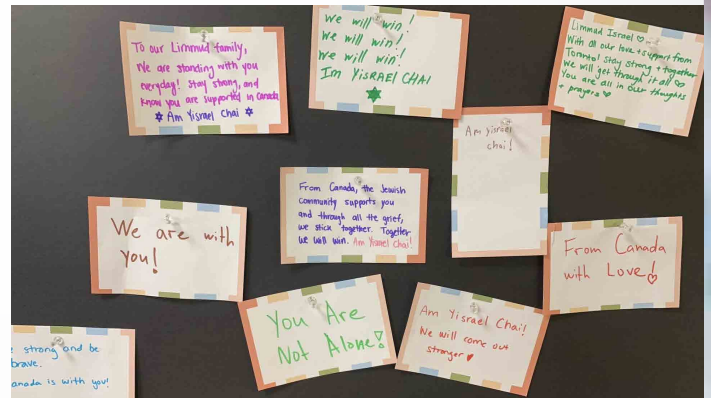
LIMMUD FSU CONFERENCES



LIMMUD FSU CANADA

The Jewish community in Canada, and Limmud FSU Canada team among them, expressed unwavering support for Israel in response to the ongoing war. In the aftermath of the October 7th events, several volunteers from Limmud FSU Canada traveled to Israel to serve in the IDF reserves. Despite facing unprecedented antisemitism, Limmud FSU volunteers continued to organize various Jewish and Israel support events.

These initiatives included donations, support sessions, participation in solidarity rallies for the hostages, "Stand with Israel" Shabbat dinners for 65 participants, featuring a talk by educator Yuliya Etingen about her visit to two kibbutzim that were heavily impacted during the Hamas invasion, as well as Hanukkah learning and celebrations for 50 participants. The main message conveyed was that despite the challenges posed by the war in Israel and antisemitism around the world, the community remained committed to studying and celebrating Judaism and the State of Israel.



HIGHLIGHTS

Berlin
March 31 –
April 2



CHAIM CHESLER
FOUNDER OF LIMMUD FSU

"The first ever Limmud FSU conference in Germany is an opportunity to celebrate our rich cultural heritage, learn from one another, and strengthen our connections. We are excited to see the impact that this conference will have on the community, and look forward to many more to come."

ELYAKIM RUBINSTEIN
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME
COURT OF ISRAEL (FMR.)

"Such a event reminds me of the importance of the State of Israel. In order for the state to survive we need to ensure internal unity. This is neither simple nor easy, but I believe that a compromise position can be always achieved."



Berlin
March 31 –
April 2

Baku
June 11



GEORGE DEEK
ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO AZERBAIJAN

"For a country to thrive, you need three things: a strong military – which allows us to defend ourselves by ourselves; a vibrant economy – which allows us to become a global power in technology and innovation; and you need good friends. Azerbaijan is one of Israel's best friends. Such events remind us of the immense potential that lies in building bridges and nurturing relationships."

SANDY CAHN
CO-FOUNDER OF LIMMUD FSU

"The vibrant spirit of Baku is truly something unique and special. Our second gathering here shines as a testament to Azerbaijan's rich Jewish heritage and welcoming spirit. The fusion of past, present, and future here fuels the Jewish soul."



Baku
June 11

HIGHLIGHTS

Lublin
November 3-5



MATTHEW BRONFMAN
CHAIRMAN OF LIMMUD FSU

"In these trying times for both the State of Israel and Ukrainian Jews, our event in Lublin stands as a testament to the resilience and unity we share. As we convene in this historic city, we renew our steadfast support for one another, transcending the distances that separate us with a shared bond of solidarity."

ALEX MERSHON
DIRECTOR OF NATIV'S DEPARTMENT
OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION

"Limmud in Lublin is not just a prominent educational event but also a tangible demonstration of solidarity by Jewish communities in former Soviet Union countries with the State of Israel. At Nativ, we actively participate in this important project, particularly during these challenging times for the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora."



Lublin
November 3-5

Tel – Aviv
December 21



RAHELI BARATZ-RIX
HEAD OF THE WZO'S DEPARTMENT
FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM &
ENHANCING RESILIENCE

"Events like Limmud FSU are very important. Jews are being attacked only because they're Jews or Israelis. Our job here is not only to increase awareness about what's going on, but also to encourage people to speak out against it. Don't stay silent."

ARSEN OSTROVSKY
CEO OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FORUM

"Today people are intentionally misapplying the law to attack and delegitimize Israel. So we must correct that while providing a passionate defense of Israel, and ensuring that the narrative stays on the real war crimes being committed by Hamas."



Tel – Aviv
December 21

LIMMUD FSU IN THE MEDIA

CLICK ON LIMMUD FSU
LOCATION TO SEE
THE ARTICLES



LIMMUD FSU EUROPE



LIMMUD FSU BAKU



LIMMUD FSU UKRAINE



LIMMUD FSU ISRAEL



SEE YOU IN
2024

