



Europe

GENERAL M&E UPDATE

To build its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) capacity, JDC Europe now has a regional director specifically charged with overseeing research and evaluation; it also added a part-time M&E coordinator. This will ensure an increased focus on M&E, as well as an important integration between the research work of JDC Europe's International Center for Community Development (ICCD) and the evaluations conducted of regional programming. Both sources of information and data will serve as core inputs in regional planning efforts.

Strategically, JDC Europe continues to prioritize M&E efforts in areas where learning about impact can best influence program development and shape future directions for the region. In 2016, this included:

- ◆ An evaluation by MJB of the first year of the pilot Mozaik Jewish Community Hub in Budapest, a priority strategy to work within the grassroots sector of the Jewish community.
- ◆ The third year of a three-year internal evaluation of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Camp at Szarvas, which has provided the robust data set needed to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the outcomes and impact of this flagship program and help shape future improvements.

- ◆ Resilience is a new program direction led by JDC Europe. As this program begins to reach full pilot operation, discussions are under way regarding the data to be measured and the best way to develop an evaluation strategy.
- ◆ Exploring an evaluation of the JCC in Warsaw that would measure its impact on Jewish life in that city in the years since its launch, and identify the activities most relevant to its members as well as the directions it should pursue.

In addition, two research studies are under way that will offer insight into program impact and/or future development:

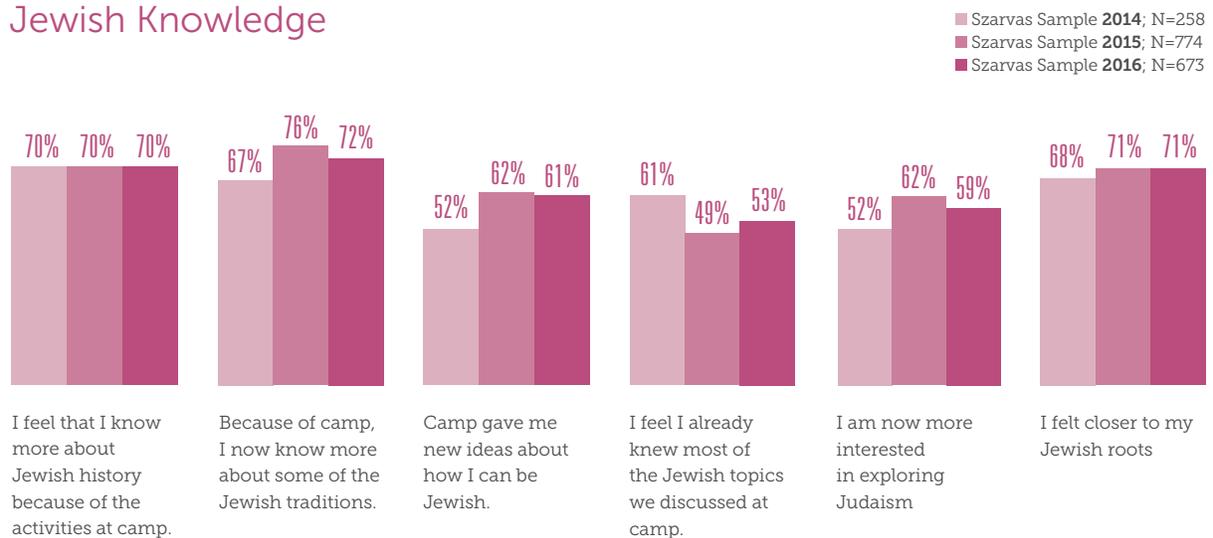
- ◆ A study exploring the collective impact on a group of Jewish teenagers of numerous JDC—and other organizations'—program initiatives in Poland, Hungary, and the Baltic states. This will include regular interviews with the teenagers and their families over a two-year period to assess the impact of these programs on the Jewish nature of the family.
- ◆ Research into the projected needs of Jewish elderly in this region 25 years from now and the ability of local communities to meet those needs as a tool in considering JDC's future role in this program space.

The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary

Since its founding in 1990, Szarvas has provided a transformative informal Jewish educational experience for Jewish youth from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, with participants also coming from India, Western Europe, Israel, and the U.S. More than 1,000 campers have been taking part in the three to four 12-day sessions held each summer in recent years. An internal evaluation process conducted over the past three summers focused on campers aged 13 to 16, who were asked to complete a multilingual questionnaire toward the end of each session.

In addition to gathering important information on the campers' backgrounds and prior Jewish connections, the questionnaires captured the participants' reaction to their overall camp experience, as well as the impact it had on their feelings about Judaism and the breadth of their Jewish knowledge.

Jewish Knowledge



Feelings About Being Jewish

