

The Beginnings of the Romanian-Israeli „Lumina” School from Craiova

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Abstract

Regarding the cultural and spiritual role of the Israeli Community in Craiova, we must keep in mind the fact that this ethnic group was one of the best represented spiritually and culturally in this city. The connecting factor of this ethnic group was represented by the mosaic monotheistic religion, which by its nature united these people which were forced to leave to Galut because of the political problems they faced ever since antiquity.

The Israeli Community in Craiova has expressed itself in this city for over two centuries, identifying with what we could call the interethnic and multicultural model, living in harmony and mutual respect. In Craiova, there are communities of Greeks, Albanians, Polishes, Macedonians, Germans, Serbians, Bulgarians, Italians, Gypsies and last, but not least, Jewish people who, even if they had different religions and cultures, lived in peace and worked for the good of the society. These different cultures gave the beauty and prosperity of Craiova, a city where these ethnic groups felt „at home”. About „Lumina” Israeli-Romanian School in Craiova, we can say that it was one of the most important in this city, being created as a natural necessity for the education of the Israeli Community due, first of all, to the demographic growth. Regarding the genesis of the Israeli education in Craiova, we find slightly older roots, dating back to the eighteenth century and mainly in the nineteenth century, when there were several Jewish schools, some of them belonging to the Israeli Community and others with a particular status, in the sense that a teacher formed himself a small school that the children could attend. Each community, both Sephardic and Ashkenazi, promoted these schools at the city level even though they were quite small in number of classes and students.