



UNGA 73 side event:

Innovation and technology foster inclusion and intercultural dialogue: The Talmud Project

The mission of the “Babylonian Talmud Translation Project” is to translate for the first time ever from ancient Aramaic into Italian the Babylonian Talmud, the fundamental text of Judaism and an unparalleled cultural trove.

The primary objective of the Project is to promote the application of new technologies in order to foster intercultural and interreligious dialogue. This way, the dissemination of knowledge can be widely increased and knowledge and dialogue are indeed essential instruments to fight against minorities’ discrimination.

The technological innovation of the Project is a unique semantic-based translation software. Specifically developed to serve the Talmud Project by the Italian National Research Council in cooperation with the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities and the Italian Rabbinical College (UCEI/CRI), this innovative software operates through a *webcloud* application, and can be adapted to translation into any language.

Translation is performed thanks to new technologies, through a “cloud digital platform” that involves more than 90 researchers and translators from all over the world. Against the background of world globalization, and as a result of technological innovation, translation thus becomes instrumental to foster intercultural dialogue and to fight against antisemitism and any other form of discrimination.

The Talmud Project is an example of how technology can promote inclusion and fuel intercultural dialogue with minorities by making their cultural heritage fully accessible. The Talmud Project has been financed with an 11 million-funding by the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministries; the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research and the National Research Council, in cooperation with the Union of the Italian Jewish Communities and the Italian Rabbinical College (UCEI/CRI).

The side-event “*Innovation and Technology foster inclusion and intercultural dialogue: the Talmud Project*”, will take place during the General Debate of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly. The event is aimed at presenting the Talmud Project as a “best practice” of how new digital technology applied to cultural ventures may encourage fruitful dynamics of dialogue and inclusion. This is in line with the longstanding efforts of the Italian Government to protect cultural heritage. The Security Council Resolution 2347/17 that was adopted on Italy’s initiative and recognizes the need for protecting cultural heritage also in armed conflicts is a case in point which confirms that the protection of peoples’ historical memory, tradition and civilization is among Italy’s foreign policy priorities.

Rosh Hashanà and Berakhot are the first two volumes of the Talmud that have been translated into Italian and published in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Other two volumes, Ta'anit and Qiddushin, will be published by 2018.

WHERE: UN Headquarters, CR 11

WHEN: 28 September, h 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Program

Opening remarks by Italian representative

Keynote speakers:

Interventions by the cosponsors: Israel, Republic of Albania

Ms. Alison Smale, Under Secretary-General Department of Public Information

Ms. Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education

Mr. Matthew Hodes, Director of UNAOC

Rav Gadi Piperno, UCEI/CRI

Mr. Arthur Schneier, Chief Rabbi of Park East Synagogue New York

Prof. Clelia Piperno, Talmud Project CEO

Q&A session

Media

The event will be open to media and available on UN webcast.

Please contact press@italyun.esteri.it in advance for accreditation and for any additional information.