Legislating Jewish Candia - *Takkanot Kandiyah* as a statement on authority and continuity in a Venetian-era Cretan Jewish community

“In the context of medieval and early modern Jewish legal literature, *Takkanot Kandiyah* is a unique historical source and literary work. This collection of communal bye-laws and other legal documents written in Hebrew records more than 300 years in the history of the Jewish community in Candia (Herakleion) during the time when it was the capital of Venetian Crete and offers us an unprecedented insight into the social and everyday life of Cretan Jews. *Takkanot Kandiyah* in its current form is the creation of Elijah Capsali (c. 1485–1550), Cretan halakhist, historian and Candiot communal leader. His passion for historical research moved him to collect older documents written by generations of his predecessors in the leadership of the Candiot Jewish community and to copy them together with those which were issued during his long engagement in communal politics between the 1510s and ‘40s. What is more, he complemented these texts by his personal memories of several important events in the community’s history and by moral reflections on the role of an ideal communal leader. (...)”