



Gefördert vom



Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend

im Rahmen des Bundesprogramms

Demokratie *leben!*

Living Diversity in Germany and Israel *Challenges and Perspectives for Education and Youth Exchange*

German-Israeli Youth Exchange *Encounters of Young People in Migration Societies*

New thematic focus in the frame of the project
“Living Diversity in Germany and Israel” in the years 2018–2019

Bilateral seminar to discuss and plan pilot projects

Young people in Germany and Israel have diverse cultural, religious and national identities. Many of them come from families with a history of migration. It often happens that young people have experienced immigration to Israel or Germany themselves.

For many decades, German-Israeli youth exchange was mainly a field of encounters between Jewish Israelis whose families often came from Europe, and native (Christian) Germans. Considering the historic background between the two countries, the line of differentiation according to the nationalities – "German" and "Israeli" – was (and is) particularly significant in this context.

Over the past ten years, the composition of youth groups from both countries has changed. Both in Germany and in Israel there are young participants who **bring diverse cultural and national identities into the youth encounters**. This reality causes the need for **new educational approaches for German-Israeli encounter projects in many respects**. **One of the central challenges is an openness** with regard to dealing with the history of National Socialism, the Shoah and their significance for young people from both countries nowadays.

Israel has always been a migration society, aiming at integrating Jews immigrating to Israel from all over the world, bringing in a great diversity of languages, practices of religious traditions and cultural habits in daily life. In addition to that a culturally diverse society was set also due to other ethnic groups living in the area, such as the Arab and the Druze communities among others.

In Germany the consideration of the country as consisting of a migration society is fairly young. Only during the last decade public and political consciousness is openly considering the challenges of a diverse population with a great number of migration biographies now belonging to Germany – among them immigrants from Turkey and other Mediterranean countries as well as from eastern Europe or Russia and lately refugees from the Middle East and Africa.

As part of a new thematic focus within the project “Living Diversity in Germany and Israel” the aim is to deepen the sensitivity for the great variety of migration biographies of young people in Germany and Israel, also as participants of encounter programs:

- How can we **expand and develop the goals of German-Israeli youth exchange** in order to further strengthen the German-Israeli ties in a young generation with diverse stories of migration?
- How can we **honor and explicitly include this great variety of personal and collective narratives into the German-Israeli discourse** with respect to the historically strong connection to the time of National Socialism and the Shoa? How can we encourage to connect to this history and its implications for the presence in both countries from the various migrant perspectives and national narratives?
- How do we **create spaces for young people to participate and actively form the democratic societies** with shared values in the Israeli and German society as transformative migrant societies?

From the German perspective an additional question draws our attention. Among the approximately 20 % of the young people with migration biography of their own or of their parents in Germany, some come from **countries which were or are currently in conflict with Israel**. This can bring critical attitudes towards Israel; anti-Semitic and anti-Israel resentments are part of it as well, especially when these attitudes are supported by voices and media in their immediate vicinity. At the same time there is an interest both by these young people and by the field of historical-political education in Germany to address and explore the special significance of German-Israeli ties.

- How can encounters and visits in Israel create new discourses and challenge the view towards Israel for this target group? Which concepts and formats are needed in order to include young people with migration stories who come from countries which are in conflict with Israel – given the openness and interest to be parts of these encounters?

The bilateral seminar shall open the floor to discuss the named questions and to plan a series of pilot encounter projects focusing on the participation of young people with migrant biographies in German-Israeli youth exchange.

Sunday, May 27, 2018

Arrival of Israeli participants to Berlin

Monday, May 28, 2018

12:00 am Welcome and arrival to the seminar

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm **Getting to know participants and organizations**
Introduction into the topic

Introduction into the frame of German-Israeli youth exchange
History – structures – regulations

4:00 pm Coffee break

4:30 pm ***Migrant societies in Israel and Germany***
History – characteristics – dynamics – current discourses

Lecturer from Israel
Lecturer from Germany

7:00 pm Dinner

Optional evening program – film connected to the topic

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

- 9:00 am ***Facing diverse historical narratives in the migrant society in Germany –
Connecting to National Socialist history and the Shoah***

Lecturer/workshop from Germany
- 11:00 am Coffee break
- 11:30 am ***Facing diverse historical narratives in the migrant society in Israel –
Connecting to Jewish history and the Shoah***

Lecturer/workshop from Israel
- 1:00 pm Lunch break
- 2:30 pm **Creating ideas for encounter programs
Presenting and discussing the ideas for encounter programs**
- 4:00 pm Coffee break
- 4:30 pm **Presenting and discussing the ideas for encounter programs
Creating concrete plans for encounter projects –
Time to match, plan, and connect**
- 6:00 pm **From the world of diversity education –
Practice some educational methods together**
- 7:30 pm Dinner

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

- 9:00 am **Diversity methods focusing on differing personal and collective narratives –
Working with family biographies**
- 12:00 am Process of fixing co-operations and closure of the seminar
- 1:00 pm Lunch and end of the bilateral seminar

Further Information

Seminar venue

Hotel Sylter Hof Berlin

Kurfürstenstraße 114–116 | 10787 Berlin | Tel. +49(0)30–2120-0

info@sylterhof-berlin.de

Participation

Participation fee for German participants: 50,- €; travel costs (German Rail, 2nd class) can be reimbursed.

Participation fee for Israeli participants: A share of the flight costs.

All costs for lodging, food and program are covered.

Registration

ConAct – Koordinierungszentrum Deutsch-Israelischer Jugendaustausch

Altes Rathaus – Markt 26 | 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg | Tel. 03491–420260

info@ConAct-org.de

www.ConAct-org.de

Application deadline

April 15, 2018

Organizing Team

- Christine Mähler, ConAct
- Liana Meiom, Israel Youth Exchange Authority
- Falko Kliewe, project “Living Diversity”, ConAct
- Lilach Meir, Israel Youth Exchange Authority
- Ilira Aliai, project “Living Diversity”, ConAct
- Katharina Schubert, project “Living Diversity”, ConAct

The project “Living Diversity in Germany and Israel – Challenges and Perspectives for Education and Youth Exchange” was developed by ConAct – Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange and the Israel Youth Exchange Authority in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. It is conceptualized as a supportive project in the German federal program “Live Democracy!”.

Find out more about the project here: www.living-diversity.org.

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(latest update: March 21, 2018)