



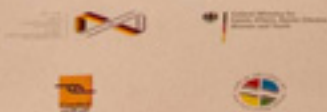
THE GERMAN- ISRAELI YOUTH CONGRESS 2015

A RETROSPECTIVE

60 YEARS
YI JUGEND 2015
CELEBRATING EXCHANGE

GERMAN
ISRAELI
YOUTH
CONGRESS
2015

Celebrating
50 Years of Diplomatic Relations
and 60 Years of Youth Exchange





**THE GERMAN-
ISRAELI YOUTH
CONGRESS
2015**

A RETROSPECTIVE

60 YEARS
TVIJUGEND 2015
CELEBRATING EXCHANGE

PUBLISHED BY



**ConAct – Coordination Center
German-Israeli Youth Exchange**
Altes Rathaus – Markt 26
06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg
Tel.: +49 (0)3491 – 4202-60
Fax: +49 (0)3491 – 4202-70
Email: info@conact-org.de
www.conact-org.de



Youth Exchange Authority
11 Asparagus St.
67949 Tel Aviv
Tel.: +972 (0)3 – 6969-390
Fax: +972 (0)3 – 6969-382
Email: ariella@youthex.co.il



Responsible for content according to German press law / Christine Mähler

Edited by / Falko Kliewe

Guest contributions / Yoni Ayalon, Doron Gallia, Bernhard Krane,
Alexandra Nocke, Larissa Smurago, Shamy Tauon, Dirk Thesenvitz

Further assistance / Or Goren, Jonas M. Hahn, Christin Henke, Renate Krekeler-Koch,
Christine Mähler, Jutta Weduwen

Translation / Jonas M. Hahn, Falko Kliewe, Tali Konas, Elizabeth K. Naithani, Shamy Tauon

Copyediting / Elizabeth Naithani, Language Boutique Köln

Design / Dorit Bialer

Picture credits / all pictures by Ruthe Zuntz, except for pp. 18, 26, 30, 32, 33, 38 (ConAct),
p. 7 (German Embassy in Israel), p. 6 (Israeli Embassy in Germany)

Production / Elbe Druckerei Wittenberg GmbH

ConAct – Coordination Center German Israeli Youth Exchange is a nationwide working service and information center for exchange projects between German and Israeli youths, located in the sector of non-formal education. Since 2001 ConAct administers the funding of German-Israeli youth exchange, supports exchange programs between young people and offers qualified training for professionals in the field of German-Israeli youth work.

ConAct works on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, supported by the federal states of Saxony-Anhalt and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. ConAct is formally connected to the Protestant Academy of Saxony-Anhalt in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, yet as a state institution is not connected to any religion. Thanks to the invitation of Lutherstadt Wittenberg, the office of ConAct is located in the historical city hall.

The Israel Youth Exchange Authority is the coordinating office in Israel and respective partner organization of ConAct. It works on behalf of the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

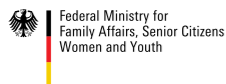


TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE BY THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY 6

PREFACE BY THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL 7

INTRODUCTION 8

GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND YOUTH EXCHANGE

German-Israeli Relations Today and in the Future 12
– A Personal Remark by **Dr. Alexandra Nocke**

German-Israeli Youth Exchange in History and in the Present 13
– A Summary of the Panel Discussion by **Jonas M. Hahn**

“It Is the History That Makes It Special” – Interview with Ambassador **Dr. Clemens von Goetze** on German-Israeli Relations and Youth Exchange 14

German-Israeli Volunteer Services in History and in the Present 15

I UNDERSTANDING DIVERSE LIFE REALITIES

Distinguishing Features Between Germans and Israelis 19
– A Summary of the Panel Discussion by **Bernhard Krane**

Discovery Tours in Berlin 20

Tohuwabohu – A German-Israeli Play 21

Creative Writing Workshop 23

Graffiti Art Workshop 25

Jerusalem Tours and Visit to the Knesset 26

Tel Aviv City Tours 27

II LIVING WITH HISTORY

Panel Discussion on “Living with History” 31

Historical City Tours in Berlin 32

Spotlight on... 50 Years Israel & Germany – A Review by **Christin Henke** 33

Our Day at Yad Vashem 35

Hannah’s Best Friend: Memories of Anne Frank 36

Henry Foner’s Train to Life 37

Commemoration Ceremonies at Yad Vashem 39

Panel on Holocaust Education and German-Israeli Youth Exchange in Past, Present and Future – A Summary of the Panel Discussion by **Yoni Ayalon, Ph.D.** 41

III CREATING AND FORMING SOCIETY

Creating and Forming Society 47

– A Summary of the Panel Discussion by **Dirk Thesenvitz** 48

Music for Exchange

Theater Workshop 48

Dance Workshop 49

Circus Workshop 49

Interview with Ambassador **Opher Aviran** on German-Israeli Relations and the Rise of Radical Political Movements 50

Creating Future Projects for Youth Exchange and Encounters 51

Memorandum of the German-Israeli Youth Congress Berlin 53

RETROSPECTIVE

Media Response 56

Voices and Feedback 57

Attachment – Full Congress Programs, Part I and Part II 60

Participating and Contributing Organizations 74

Photo Gallery 76

PREFACE BY THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY



Dear friends in Germany and Israel!

As the jubilee year marking 50 years of bilateral relations between Israel and Germany is over and we are looking back, there is – no doubt – a series of wonderful events we will never forget. Among the most important of them is the German-Israeli Youth Congress, which I was lucky enough to attend together with Presidents Joachim Gauck and Reuven Rivlin.

It is often said that young people are the future, but if you consider the importance of youth encounters in building the ties between Israel and Germany already a few years after the Holocaust, you realize that this is not yet another empty phrase but the truth.

The first youth group from Germany visited Israel already in 1955 – only 10 years after the Shoah and 10 years before the official start of our diplomatic relations. In my eyes that says it all. Today we talk about 700 000 youngsters who took part in bilateral youth exchange programs throughout the years.

ConAct and its Israeli partner the Israel Youth Exchange Authority have played an important role in this development. Since ConAct was founded in 2001 as the official coordination office for German-Israeli youth exchange, every year 300 exchange projects are financed.

In this spirit I thank everyone who took part in the Youth Congress and helped to make 2015 an unforgettable year. Thank you for your hard work, for your passion, for your friendship! Now, we should not lean back but get started over again and make even more things happen.

Shalom!

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman

Israeli Ambassador to Germany

PREFACE BY THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

In 1955, just ten years after the war and ten years before the establishment of diplomatic relations, the first German youth group traveled to Israel. At a time when official relations between Germany and Israel were not yet possible, young people from Germany and Israel had the courage and will to meet and get to know each other.

Over the years, youth exchange has become a cornerstone of German-Israeli relations: Annual exchange programs were arranged for the first time in 1969 by the two governments, and four years later – in 1973 – a formal basis for youth exchange was established. Since then the “Mixed Commission on German-Israeli Youth Exchange” has met once a year.

In addition to the school exchange, there are numerous extracurricular youth exchanges in the areas of music, sports, historical research, environmental associations, etc. On average, more than 9000 young people from Israel and Germany take part in exchange programs every year. With such a lively exchange it is difficult to come up with new additions to the program. Yet, for the 50th anniversary of German-Israeli relations, we have succeeded in doing just that: In 2015, for the first time, a German-Israeli youth congress took place with around 300 young people from both countries, all actively involved in the exchange. Their diverse impressions and findings are documented in this publication. In addition, we launched a German-Israeli voluntary service, with the purpose of encouraging more young Israeli volunteers to go to Germany – so far, more German volunteers are coming to Israel.

We Germans are extremely gratified that 70 years after the Holocaust so many Israelis, many of them students and young people, are visiting Germany. In order to build this confidence in the Germany of today it was and is essential that we Germans answer to our actions from the darkest chapter of



our past, and stand up for Israel's right to existence and security.

Today one increasingly hears Hebrew spoken on the streets of Berlin. We would not have expected this popularity a few years back and I sincerely hope that it will continue to grow. The youth exchange contributes greatly to this endeavor.

Dr. Clemens von Goetze

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Israel

INTRODUCTION

The year 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany. A dense network of cooperations and friendships has grown between individuals, nongovernmental organizations and official institutions of both countries – the bonds are strong and meaningful to both sides.

One of the most lively and connecting fields is the framework of youth exchange. For about 60 years young people from both countries have gotten together through youth exchange and volunteer services. More than 600 000 youngsters took part in these programs over the years and multiplied their experiences afterwards.

On the occasion of the anniversary year 2015, the funding and supporting organizations for German-Israeli youth exchange decided to focus on the youngsters themselves. Young people with former experience and present engagement in German-Israeli exchange projects and volunteer services were invited to get together, in order to discuss experiences, successes and challenges of Israeli-German encounters in the past, present and future. The German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 took place in Germany from May 8 to 12 and in Israel from November 16 to 20. About 300 young people from both countries took part.

The program was meant to open up space for interesting topics, controversial discussions and meaningful encounters around German-Israeli relations and youth contacts.

In order to achieve these goals the congress program offered...

... **large panels in plenum sessions and small workshops** for intensive discussions. In all sessions organizations of German-Israeli youth exchange and volunteer services were involved, and participants and activists of the bilateral relations contributed, shared their experiences and were asked to actively participate.

... **daily meetings of encounter groups** in order to create a safe space to share impressions, doubts, open questions and new insights.

... **an exhibition on 60 years of German-Israeli youth relations** and an online station (www.exchange-visions.de) to find out about milestones and exchange projects of the last decades.

... **insights into research on German-Israeli youth exchange** and discussions with the authors of the new book "Moving Moments Connecting for Life – German-Israeli Youth Exchange in Theory and Practice."

... **discovery tours in Berlin, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv** that went beyond the average city tour.

... **historical excursions** in Germany and Israel in remembrance of National Socialism and the Shoah.

... **creative workshops:** dance, theater, writing, circus and visional thinking.

... **focusing on topics of German-Israeli (youth) encounters** – topics which raise central questions regarding the past, present and future of German-Israeli (youth) relations:

1. CREATING AND FORMING SOCIETY

Engagement, volunteering and living democracy: What are we contributing to shaping multicultural and tolerant societies in Germany and Israel?

2. LIVING WITH HISTORY

Discovering and facing the presence of the past, discussing the present significance of the history of National Socialism across the involved generations, and continuing the commemoration of the Shoah together: How are we coping with the shared history which connects us today?

3. UNDERSTANDING DIVERSE LIFE REALITIES

Everyday challenges in the Middle East and Europe, mobility around the globe, social media worlds and globalization as a reality of life: How are we dealing with comparable and differing life realities in Israel and Germany?

Partner organizations in youth exchange contributed to the congress by presenting the

output of their German-Israeli encounters in the form of a theater play, as music accompanying the congress, as statements on panels, and most importantly as participants bringing in their viewpoints at the congress. A bilateral young media team reported at the congress on site – www.youth-congress-2015.org – and parties with live music and active drumming rounded off the days.

The German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 was the first of its kind in 50 years of German-Israeli youth relations. Our aim was to open up a space for encounter among those young people who consider themselves actively involved in German-Israeli relations. The youth congress received great attention by the visit of the presidents of Germany and Israel who followed the invitation of the German

Federal Minister of Youth, Ms. Manuela Schwesig, and by the visit of the ambassadors of both states. It was a large, dynamic congress with 300 participants that moved our hearts and minds.

The documentation presented here is an attempt to cover moments, impressions, processes, discussions and outcomes of diverse kinds. We hope that it will offer both – good memories and impulses for future encounters.

We wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of the German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 in any way!

Yours

The inviting organizations...

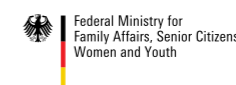


Ariella Gill

Israel Youth Exchange Authority

Christine Mähler

ConAct – Coordination Center
German-Israeli Youth Exchange



A photograph of two young men playing soccer on a grassy field. The man on the left is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, tan pants, and a maroon beanie. The man on the right is wearing a blue and white striped sweater and dark pants. A green soccer ball is on the grass between them. In the background, there is a blue and yellow goalpost and a wooden structure. An orange hexagonal graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND YOUTH EXCHANGE".

**GERMAN-ISRAELI
RELATIONS
AND
YOUTH EXCHANGE**

GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE

A PERSONAL REMARK BY DR. ALEXANDRA NOCKE



I first met an Israeli in 1989. This meeting – and with it an enduring friendship lasting to this day – were both made possible by an exchange between my high school in Bonn and Tali's school in Tel Aviv. In the past 25 years, I frequently visited Israel and spent time living in the country. Through the diverse encounters in Israel I was able to locate myself in a historical sequence, and for the first time understand myself as the granddaughter of participants in and perpetrators of World War II.

The personal contact I experienced painted an increasingly differentiated picture of German-Israeli relations. And at the same time, it became all the

clearer to me: Both countries, and the people who live in them, remain part of an interwoven narrative, even as their relationships change over time and new generations with new approaches to the common past grow up. Over the years, I understood: Israel is made up of countless stories, often contradictory, which all yearn to be told.

I believe understanding, empathy, but also fractures and differences can only be experienced in direct contact with the respective other. Thus, to make these diverse stories heard, and to continue cultural exchange as well as dialog and debate, is the most important task for the future.

Dr. Alexandra Nocke is an independent scholar, curator, and researcher in cultural studies. She is responsible for "Israelis & Germans" (israelis-und-deutsche.de), the traveling exhibition dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the establishment of German-Israeli diplomatic relations. During the first part of our youth congress in Berlin she moderated the panel on "German-Israeli Relations in 50 Years: Challenges – Successes – Perspectives."

GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH EXCHANGE IN HISTORY AND IN THE PRESENT

A SUMMARY OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION BY JONAS M. HAHN



70 YEARS AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR II, THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST REMAINS OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE WITHIN GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH EXCHANGE

Investigating local history, speaking to a contemporary eye witness or holding a joint commemoration ceremony: In every German-Israeli exchange, in one way or another young people are dealing with the past and are thereby contributing to "the past" remaining a part of the present.

Which challenges did young people during the early German-Israeli encounters in the mid-1950s face? How did the remembrance of the Holocaust influence the encounters then and which role does the topic play in current exchange projects? What motivates young people today to take part in an exchange, and which challenges are we going to face in the future in German-Israeli youth exchange? These and other questions were discussed at the panel "German-Israeli Youth Exchange in History and in the Present."

There are three conclusions that arose from the discussion that I would like to highlight because they are of great importance:

CHALLENGES ALWAYS EXISTED IN GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH EXCHANGE

Hesitancy, restraint and reservations were characteristics of the early exchanges. Finding mutual understanding for the different realities of life for young Israelis and Germans is one of today's challenges. Sixty years of exchange became a success story because people on both sides worked hard to face challenges in order to find a mutual understanding between Germans and Israelis.

SOCIETIES BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIVERSE

On both sides, in Germany and in Israel, we have an increasing variety of young people with different religious, ethnic, cultural and national backgrounds. If we manage to include all parts of our societies in the exchange, it will be a great benefit for German-Israeli youth exchange.

Since January 2014 **Jonas M. Hahn** has been working as educational coordinator at the office of ConAct – Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange. He volunteered with Action Reconciliation Service for Peace in Israel. At Heidelberg University, the Jordan University in Amman, and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva Mr. Hahn studied Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies. During the first part of our youth congress in Berlin he moderated the panel on "German-Israeli Youth Exchange in History and in the Present."

“IT IS THE HISTORY THAT MAKES IT SPECIAL”

INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR DR. CLEMENS VON GOETZE
ON GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS
AND YOUTH EXCHANGE



On May 12, 1965, West Germany and Israel established diplomatic relations. Since then, 14 German representatives have been sent to Israel to serve as ambassadors. Dr. Clemens von Goetze is the current ambassador, in office since July 2015. Our youth media group spoke with him about the past, present and future of German-Israeli relations and youth exchange.

Our youth media group spoke with him about the past, present and future of German-Israeli relations and youth exchange.

Q Ambassador Dr. von Goetze, from your diplomatic perspective as ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Tel Aviv: What is special about German-Israeli relations?

A First of all the history makes it special. Germany is the country of perpetrators and Israel the country of victims of the Shoah. And it is amazing that 70 years after the end of the Shoah and 50 years after establishing diplomatic relations we have managed to establish excellent relations between the countries. I think this is mainly thanks to the fact that the Israelis had the strength and generosity to reach out their hand to us.

Q We are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations and an impressive 60 years of youth exchange. How are these very different forms of interaction related?

A It is not by chance that the youth exchange came before the diplomatic relations. It was the young people who wanted to ensure a future for our relations, despite the very, very difficult past. And the past will never be forgotten, it will always be an essential part of our relations. But it is again the youngsters who will have to keep the relations alive for the next 50 years of diplomatic relations between our countries.

Q What can politicians and politics learn from youth exchange?

A Young people have a very good sense for the actual problems that are moving a society. And as politicians it is always good to know exactly what moves societies and what young people – the future of our societies – are interested in, what they expect from the future.

Q Moving from the past to the present to the future: Where do you see the opportunities and challenges in German-Israeli relations today and tomorrow?

A If we always remember the past and continue with our common efforts, I am sure we will be able to develop our relations in the same positive way that they have been moving forward up to now. Our relations have enormous potential for the young generation, not only in politics and business, but also in education, science and culture. Together, Germans and Israelis can achieve a lot and can overcome challenges. Your upcoming youth conference with so many participants from both countries offers the chance to build a long-lasting network for this endeavor.



GERMAN-ISRAELI VOLUNTEER SERVICES IN HISTORY AND IN THE PRESENT



Volunteering in Israel is both popular and challenging for young Germans. Already in the early 1960s small groups of young Germans arrived to Israel with the aim of doing a volunteer service. Since then the number of institutions engaged in the field, the variety of placements as well as the actual number of volunteers steadily increased. More than 25 German organizations are sending volunteers to Israel today. Around 600–800 young Germans are participating in a volunteer service annually, working in various fields of the Israeli society.

Different persons with different backgrounds and approaches towards the idea of volunteerism were present on the panel: Sabine von Zastrow, working for the Friends of the Education of Rudolf Steiner, the clarinetist and singer Irith Gabriely, Benjamin Fischer and Laura Cazés of the Central Welfare Organization of Jews in Germany and Dr. Christoph Steegmans of the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The panel was moderated by Dr. Jochen Palenker of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

During the panel Mr. Steegmans announced the intention to establish a new volunteer program in order to bring more young Israelis to Germany. Within the program of Kom-Mit-Nadev young Israelis have already been coming for several years to volunteer in Germany. In the year of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel it was the intention to further develop and deepen the cooperation in the field of German-Israeli volunteer services.



UNDERSTANDING DIVERSE LIFE REALITIES





"I find it very funny how Germans are always shocked when I tell them that I used to be a sniper in the army."

Nofar, youth congress participant from Rishon LeZion

Everyday challenges in the Middle East and Europe are both similar and very different. While in Israel concrete threats to daily life are present, life in Europe overall is in a quiet and safe atmosphere.

International mobility, social media worlds and globalization as a reality of life:

How are we dealing with comparable and differing realities of life in Israel and Germany? We looked at these questions in Berlin and Israel in panel discussions, workshops, city tours and through an impressive theater play.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES BETWEEN GERMANS AND ISRAELIS

A SUMMARY OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION
BY BERNHARD KRANE



Three Israelis and one German met to discuss these issues. They are involved in the coordination of international encounter programs (Ariella Gill), in an Israeli Jewish-Arabic-Bedouin youth movement (Salwa Abu Kashef), in building an Israeli cultural network in Germany (Nirit Bialer) and in politics in the European Parliament in Brussels (Arne Lietz). Common to all four is an in-depth knowledge of democratic principles, social pluralism, social media and international mobility. Essential distinguishing features between Germans and Israelis are that Israelis experience threats, armed conflict and terrorism almost daily. This influences individual

approaches to German-Israeli and international encounter programs and makes it harder to plan and realize encounter programs in Israel. Many Germans don't realize that Israeli participants often worry about their personal safety when traveling to foreign countries. Remembering the Shoah and the history of both nations is at the same time a separating and a connecting element of German-Israeli relations. Addressing and coping with painful aspects during the 50 year celebrations of diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel is in itself a testimony to grown mutual trust and closeness.



Bernhard Krane is the desk officer for Israel, Belgium and Great Britain at Action Reconciliation Service for Peace. In addition he lectures and teaches at different German-Israeli organizations and in various programs. Mr. Krane studied Theology and History at the Free University of Berlin, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Paderborn. During the first part of our youth congress in Berlin he moderated the panel on "Understanding Diverse Life Realities."

DISCOVERY TOURS IN BERLIN

A broad variety of city tours was offered in order to discover different aspects of life in multicultural Berlin. Visiting the *New Synagogue* and the *Bavarian Quarter*, two tours gave insight into historical and contemporary Jewish life in Berlin. Berlin has always been a destination for immigrants from different backgrounds. Among others, Huguenots, Viennese Jews and Silesians came here in the past. Today one of the most vibrant districts of Berlin consists of Turkish, Swabian, Polish and other “Kreuzbergers.” One can find encounter churches, mosques, synagogues, and a variety of ethnic food. But social tensions are visible here, too. Is Kreuzberg an example of a modern multicultural society made up

of many (sub)cultures? Is the district truly a melting pot, or do its inhabitants simply coexist in parallel worlds? Those questions were tackled on our tour *Kreuzberg – Immigrant City – From Immigrants to Inhabitants*. Another tour in Kreuzberg dealt with the urban street art phenomenon and tried to decipher its messages. In a final city tour we addressed the media in Berlin: How do media houses and journalists work in the age of the Internet? And how are the city and the public sphere interconnected with the media?



TOHUWABOHU – A GERMAN-ISRAELI PLAY

In summer 2014, twenty young people from Israel and Germany came together to gather different opinions and viewpoints and discuss the overall mood in their home countries. “Enough pain, enough tears, enough suffering,” someone cries. Another woman shouts: “We gotta fight for our country!” The actors dance, they demonstrate, provoke and interrupt each other. This exchange project, organized by *Ludwig-Wolker-Haus e.V.*, *Bund der Katholischen Jugend Berlin* (Catholic Youth Association Berlin) and *Tzofim – Israeli Scouts* was funded by *ConAct – Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange*, the *Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future* and the *Foundation F.C. Flick*. The result is an impressive play, dealing with the issues of discrimination and advocacy for a more respectful society.

The following behind-the-scenes perspective is based on a contribution by Renate Krekeler-Koch, educator at Ludwig-Wolker-Haus e.V. in the youth exchange project.

Getting to know and accepting different life realities was the central subject of the exchange project from which the play “Tohuwabohu” arose. With the understanding that team leader and organization should only supervise and support the process in youth projects, the participants in this theater project were given the freedom to decide themselves which content they wanted to communicate in what manner.

First they collected statements about topics that are relevant both to them personally and in their respective societies. Naturally, the relations between Germany and Israel throughout history and in the present were addressed. In light of the latest Gaza war that took place during the encounter, it was unavoidable to also tackle the issues of exclusion, discrimination and war. In teams of two an answer was formulated to each statement. The emerging dialogue became the basis of scenes to be created. Generally Israelis were given the “German parts” of the play and vice versa; in this way changing perspectives and reflecting on the different topics



in both societies became inevitable. How else could an Israeli play an annoyed German student who feels like he is forced to rehash Nazi history for the hundredth time? What does it mean for a Berlin youngster to play a fanatic that wants to wipe out all Israelis to bring about global peace? And how does an Israeli feel about shouting “Allahu akbar”?

The path taken to create this play was intense. It was not always easy and at times it was painful, but it was always accompanied by openness, respect and devotion, allowing the young people to feel safe and at ease within the group. The particular form of this encounter, and the opportunities that theatrical work offers, made this possible. The name Tohuwabohu does not only reflect the variety of topics of the play, but also the emotions that are behind it.

The intended message of this play is simple: All voice must be heard. Solutions can only be found by engaging with difficult issues. Denying or trivializing issues will only increase the problems.

In accordance with the manifesto that the young people wrote for their commemoration ceremony in Ravensbrück:

“The more voices we hear, the more bridges we can build, the stronger will be the connection between us.”

Read what the German-Israeli youth media group wrote before the performance on May 9, 2015:



Danielle-Natalie Kind (29), an Israeli artist, and Doron Gallia (24), member of the Israeli Scouts, came here as a couple and are presenting the play called “TOHUWABOHU” tonight. The play was created by a German-Israeli group including the German director Andreas Wrosch and is a “site specific” show – a show designed uniquely for each location it is performed in. “Our show’s message might be a little different than the common atmosphere

here at the congress,” says Danielle, the creator and co-director of the play. They feel that as Israelis in the congress they should “shake things up” regarding the topics discussed and that “we should put aside the politically-correct attitude and create an authentic and honest discussion.” The play participants’ WhatsApp group is called “Between Chaos and Order” and accurately describes the process of working together. “We as Israelis bring the ‘Balagan’ with us, for good and for bad,” says Danielle.

As was shown through the German-Israeli theater play, creative methods can be a new, enriching way to deal with well-known topics and to express one’s thoughts and emotions. Besides classic “think tanks,” several creative workshops were offered at the youth congress in Berlin to enable the participants to present their feelings, ideas and results to the group, as well as to our distinguished guests: President of Israel Mr. Reuven Rivlin, President of Germany Mr. Joachim Gauck, and Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Ms. Manuela Schwesig. A sample of the outcome can be found below as well as in the chapter “Creating and Forming Society.”

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Doron Gallia

Bevor ich hierher kam, gab mir meine Großmutter während meines kurzen Besuches bei ihr 500 Schekel. Das Geld hatte sie von den Deutschen bekommen – die gleichen Deutschen, die meine Großmutter so sehr hasste zu lieben. Meine Großmutter, die selbst Deutsche war und sich dafür hasste, gab das Geld an den Ort zurück an dem sie geboren worden war und wo sie einen kleinen Teil ihrer Kindheit verbracht hatte.

Ich denke an meine Großmutter – 91 Jahre alt. Was würde sie wohl denken, wenn sie mich gestern Abend hätte Berliner Bier trinken sehen – übrigens nicht sehr teuer? Sie hätte mich sicherlich mit einem Blick angeschaut, zur Hälfte enttäuscht, die andere Hälfte hätte ich nicht zu deuten vermocht. Sie hätte mir auf Deutsch zugeflüstert und mir angedeutet unter den Tisch zu schauen, um mir dort ein Goldstar einzuschenken.

דורון גליה

500 שקלים נתנה לי סבתי בביקורי הקצר אצלה לפני שהגעתי לכאן. הכסף הזה הגיע אליה מהגרמנים, אותם הגרמנים שסבתא שלי כל כך שונאת לאהוב. סבתא שלי, שהיא בעצמה הגרמנייה השנואה על עצמה, מחזירה את הכסף למקום מולדתה, לבית ילדותה קצר הטווח.

אני חושב על סבתא שלי, בת התשעים ואחת, מה היא הייתה חושבת אילו ראתה אותי שותה בירה ברלינאית, לא יקרה אגב, אתמול בלילה? היא בטח הייתה מסתכלת עליי במבט חצי מאוכזב וחצי כזה שאני לא יודע לקרוא. לוחשת לי בגרמנית ומסמנת לי להסתכל מתחת לשולחן ומוזגת לי גולדסטאר.

Larissa Smurago

Glashaus oder: nur die Angst ist hellrosa

sich im Glashaus nach Steinen sehnen
zerbrechliches Eisen
Aufgeklärtheit purpurner Schlachtfelder
tretende Gebete
eine zeitlose Frage, abhängig von Zeit
verzichtet auf hoffnungstragende Worte!

Schutz durch Verblendung
Glanz vertränter Gesichter
Zukunft ohne Farbe -
nur die Angst ist hellrosa

widerspenstige Geschichten der Unvergänglichkeit

im Fortschritt der Verwesung
sagte man: wer weiß
ich sagte:
die Möglichkeit ist nur im Angesicht des
Unmöglichen denkbar

לריסה סמוראגו

בית זכוכית או: רק הפחד הוא ורוד בהיר
לכמוה לאבנים בבית הזכוכית
ברזל שביר
נאורות של שדות קרב ארגמניים
תפילות צועדות
שאלה חסרת זמן, תלויה בזמן
ותרו על מילים של תקווה!

הגנה באמצעות סנוור
בוהק של פנים שטופות דמעות
עתידי בלי צבע -
רק הפחד הוא ורוד בהיר

סיפורים מפחידים על אלמוות

בריקבון המתקדם
אמרו: מי יודע
אני אמרתי:

האפשרות אפשרית רק לנוכח הבלתי אפשרי



Shamya Tauon

300 people in one room.

I listen to the conversations, they seem to be very simple and not complicated at all.

So I try to have one also.

What could happen, I think.

300 people in one room.

And me, in one room.

What's your name, and what are you?

Where were you born, and where are you;

They're asking.

How should I identify myself?

I don't know how to identify myself.

I'm me, by my name.

I have no ID.

No past, and no future in the horizon.

I'm my present. Here and now.

You know, I've been thinking

To not limit you in an ID space.

So I came to here to sell the ID.

I'm looking for you, perhaps you're here.

Spreading your perfume all over the place.

You stand at my right.

Your blue eyes are shining like there's no other life outside them.

You're playing with your blonde hair in a spontaneous way,

So I can look to my left side.

And you're standing there,

With a necklace on your chest

Contains history and religion.

And I'm standing there.

Exactly in the middle.

Not going right, and not going left.

And I remember you in a demonstration in Ramallah.

Fuck it I say!

Which one of them are you?

Did you live in Ramallah,

Or did you just move from Tel Aviv to Nahariya?

Or maybe you're from here.

And have nothing to do with my Middle East?

Darling, would you wait a minute

Till I finish this public sale,

Maybe I could sell the ID.

And we'll have a date two hours from now

On Saturn!

Shamya Tauon

ثلاثمئة شخص في غرفة واحدة.

أنصت للمحادثات. تبدو بسيطة للغاية وكأنها لا تحوي على أي تعقيد.

أثبتت نفسي وأقرر المحاولة أنا الأخرى.

ماذا قد يحدث، أفكر.

ثلاثمئة شخص في غرفة واحدة.

وأنا، في غرفة واحدة.

ما إسمك وماذا تكون؟

أين ولدت وأين تكون

يسألون.

كيف يجدر بي أن أعرف نفسي؟

لا أعرف كيف أعرف نفسي.

أنا شخصي، بإسمي

لا هوية لي.

لا ماضي ولا مستقبل في المدى.

أنا حاضري. الآن وهنا.

أندري، كنت قد فكرت

ألا أحصر طيفك في حيز الهوية.

فأتيت إلى هنا لأبيع الهوية.

أفتش عنك، ربما تكون

تنثر عطرک في أرجاء المكان.

إلى يميني تقف. عينك الزرقاوان تلمعان،

وكأن لا حياة إلا فيهما.

تبعثر شعرك الأشقر بعفوية

كي أنظر إلى يساري.

وتقف هناك.

على صدرك ملقى بإتقان

تاريخ ودين.

وأقف أنا بالوسط.

لا أخطو يمينا ولا شمالا.

وأذكر طيفك في مظاهرة

في رام الله.

تيا أقول!

أيهم أنت؟!

هل سكنت في رام الله،

أم أنك نقلت للتو من تل أبيب

إلى نهاريّا.

أو أنك أساسا من هنا

ولا علاقة لك بشرقي الأوسط!

حبيبي، هلا إنتظرت قليلا

إلى أن أنتهي من مزادي العلني،

علني نجحت في بيع الهوية؛

ويكون موعدنا بعد ساعتين

من الآن في زحل!

GRAFFITI ART WORKSHOP

"This graffiti as a whole is a drawing of two hands reaching out and holding each other to represent the friendship between Germany and Israel. On the outside of the hands are symbols and drawings which stand for German and Israel societies as we see them. On the insides of the hands are drawings that represent us as individuals – our own personalities, likes and everyday lives."

As can be seen, the graffiti was split into five groups. That way we could work in smaller groups to create the graffiti through thought processes, brainstorming and getting to know one another. The workshop was fun, as was learning graffiti techniques, and it also brought up new ideas and thoughts to consider."

(Gal, Israeli workshop participant)



JERUSALEM TOURS AND VISIT TO THE KNESSET

In order to understand the diverse and challenging life realities of people in Israel, and to talk about different narratives on various issues on the ground, we offered tours through Jerusalem and Abu Gosh. Due to the fragile security situation since September 2015 – triggered by tensions between Palestinians and Israelis regarding the status of Temple Mount, which were followed by a series of “lone wolf” attacks in the following weeks – we decided not to take any risks: Instead of walking through the city center we got on buses to head for several observation points to discuss the temperamental history of Jerusalem from different perspectives, including subjects of identity and religion. In doing so, we didn’t avoid highly controversial issues such as the status of settlements or the separation barrier.

Later on in the Knesset we met with Hilik Bar, Member of Knesset for the Labor Party (Avoda). In his talk he outlined his stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as on issues of domestic policy. Asked about youth policies in Israel, Bar stressed the importance of getting more young people involved in public debates and decision-making processes.



“What I most liked about the Jerusalem tours was that the German participants could see the places of diverse life in Israel and the complexity with their own eyes and hear the different voices that were raised, and not just read a story in the news. It makes the view more vivid and clear.”

Sapir, youth congress participant from Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV CITY TOURS

Different life realities: What does that mean for Berlin and Tel Aviv, two special cities that have become increasingly intertwined in recent years? Of course they are still very different, not only in regard to each other, but also in regard to the rest of Germany, respectively Israel.

These two highly cosmopolitan cities are very attractive to immigrants, as was explained during the tour *South Tel Aviv Refugees and Foreign Workers*. Here the participants could witness the lives, businesses and communities of African refugees and asylum seekers in Israel. We learned about the international and Israeli law pertaining to refugees and how the refugee issue is affected by and affects broader political dynamics in Israel.

However, to really understand life realities in Israel today, you have to step back and see which groups of people have lived here in the past. For hundreds and thousands of years people from different places migrated and chose to live on this land. Everyone made an impact on society and left traces that can be found to this day. Dating back to the year 5000 BC, *Old Jaffa* has one of the richest histories in Israel, telling stories of biblical prophet Jonah, Phoenicians,

Romans, crusaders and the multicultural Ottoman Empire. Some of the Ottoman laws, although partly modified by the British during the Mandate period, continue to apply today.

Further tours shed light on the history of immigration during the 19th and 20th century, leading to the foundation of the modern state of Israel: German Templers established their colony Sarona on a piece of land which is today a part of Tel Aviv. Jewish pioneers built first modern Jewish neighborhoods outside of Jaffa such as *Kerem Hateimanim* and *Neve Tzedek*. With ongoing waves of immigration, Tel Aviv’s population grew rapidly. The rise of Nazism in Germany led to a new wave of immigrants arriving, many of them architects from the Bauhaus school of design. They left us an outstanding ensemble of Bauhaus buildings, today known as the *White City*.

What one could learn from those tours is that migration is a constant phenomenon in this place, molding the political, economic and social structure, hence our daily lives – especially during the last 150 years. Acknowledging migration as a fact is a precondition for coexistence in the “salad bowl” societies of both Tel Aviv and Berlin.



YOUTH
MEDIA
GROUP

Get an impression of the day and watch the video taken by our youth media group!



A group of young people are peeking from behind a wall of grey stone pillars in a courtyard. The pillars are arranged in a long, straight line, creating a sense of depth. The people are looking out from the gaps between the pillars. A blue hexagonal graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "LIVING WITH HISTORY".

LIVING WITH HISTORY



"Politicians expect memorial sights to be anti-fascist washing machines. It just doesn't work that way."

Elke Gryglewski, House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site

The presence of the past – the persecution and murder of millions of Jews and other minorities by Germans all over Europe 70 years ago – is vibrant and often influences our perspective on one another in German-Israeli encounters. We feel both connected and distanced from the past – yet, facing this history is one central topic and challenge in German-Israeli youth exchange projects.

How are we – today – coping with the shared history which connects us? How can we keep on establishing a shared and meaningful commemoration of the Shoah, offering steps to connect to this history in individual ways? How can we encourage ourselves to draw conclusions from the past, create awareness and become active against discrimination and racism and for tolerance and equal human rights – beyond national borders?

To find answers and to confront ourselves with both our histories, the program at the German-Israeli Youth Congress dedicated a part of the program in each part of the congress to get connected to present discourses of commemorating the past. In Berlin participants could choose from a variety of historical expeditions, visiting either commemoration sites or places of educational work related to National Socialism, the Shoah and German post-war history. In addition to this, the program offered panel discussions and workshops related to the topic. At the youth congress in Israel the subject was addressed for a whole day at the national memorial site of Yad Vashem, including a shared commemoration ceremony. Here we met with several survivors of the Holocaust to listen to their stories – two of which will be shared in this chapter. Another access to history emerged from the youth encounter "Spotlight on... 50 Years Israel & Germany." Its cinematic outcome was presented at our youth congress in Berlin.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON "LIVING WITH HISTORY"

Our discussion about different perspectives on coping with the past in Germany and Israel was characterized by an open and lively atmosphere thanks to moderator Jutta Weduwen (Action Reconciliation Service for Peace) who opened the panel to our audience right after the initial questions. Soon a vivid discussion evolved in which the panelists Dr. Meron Mendel (Anne Frank Educational Center Frankfurt), Dr. Peter Fischer (AMCHA Germany), Uriel Kashi (Israeli educator) and Martin Schellenberg (Memorial Site and Museum Sachsenhausen) outlined each of their personal points of view while connecting to current discourses in historical education.

Huge differences between Germany and Israel became evident when it comes to imparting historical knowledge to children of kindergarten and elementary school age. The ceremonies surrounding the Israeli national holidays Yom Hashoah ("Holocaust Memorial Day") and Yom Hazikaron ("Day of the Remembrance for the Fallen

Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism") lead children in Israel to ask already at a very young age about the meaning of these events. This makes it necessary to address these historical topics earlier than in Germany. Other focus areas were the questions of guilt and responsibility and how to deal with the history of the Shoah in multicultural societies. In regard to the latter, Uriel Kashi talked about "Alternative Memorial Days" which have been realized already by some Israeli youth movements.

Overall it was a lively discussion that showed a great need to talk about those subjects – especially about successful examples of educational work in this field. It gave new insights and opened up other perspectives from which all can benefit in future encounters.



HISTORICAL CITY TOURS IN BERLIN

In Berlin you cannot ignore the dark chapter of German history, for the city served as the capital of the Nazi regime. One of the most salient symbols commemorating the atrocities of that time is the *Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe*. Located in the heart of Berlin, it was a good start to become acquainted with Berlin's diverse memorial landscape and its inherent tensions.

Another tour to the *Topography of Terror Documentation Center* focused on the personnel of the Nazi terror machine and how they planned, organized and implemented the persecution and murder of millions of people in Germany and throughout Europe. Our visit to the *German Resistance Memorial Center* and the *Memorial Site Silent Heroes* taught us that there were individuals and groups who resisted and took action against the National socialist dictatorship. Both sites are dedicated to those people who stood by persecuted Jews despite all risks. Naturally, Jewish institutions and individuals themselves fought to preserve their dignity, to resist and to survive – as could be seen on the guided tour called “The Jewish Response to National Socialism” at the *Jewish Museum*.

While a personal perspective on National Socialist persecution could be experienced at the *Anne Frank Center*, a more general perspective was offered at the *House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site*. Here the permanent exhibition documents the background and history before the National Socialist persecution of Jews started, explains the ensuing process of social exclusion, deprivation of rights and expulsion between 1933 and 1939, and the deportations, confinement to ghettos and murder of the European Jews in German-controlled territories. The central focus of the exhibition is the Wannsee Conference which took place on January 20, 1942, in the former dining room of the villa.



“If you put stars on a walk of fame nobody asks if it is appropriate or not, so why make a fuss about the Stumbling Blocks?”

Andrea Heuberger, Memorial Site Silent Heroes

Finally, but no less important, we explored German post-war history on two tours. At the former border-crossing point “*Friedrichstraße Station*,” called Palace of Tears, one could get an idea of the intense emotional experience of getting from Eastern to Western Germany and of the impact that a divided Germany had on people's personal lives. Saying goodbye, longing for loved ones, resentment and despair are deeply connected with this place. Close by, at the *Historic Mile* between *Checkpoint Charlie* and *Potsdam Square*, we could take a look at what is left of the former death strip. We learned about the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the difficulties of life in a divided city, and the fall of the wall in 1989.



Check out the video that our youth media group shot on-site!

SPOTLIGHT ON... 50 YEARS ISRAEL & GERMANY

A REVIEW BY CHRISTIN HENKE

In March 2015, 22 young men and women from all over Germany and Israel undertook an expedition together – an expedition through the past, present and future of diverse relations between Germany and Israel. The youth encounter “Spotlight on... 50 Years Israel & Germany” marked the beginning of the joint projects for the German-Israeli anniversary year by *ConAct – Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange* and the *Israel Youth Exchange Authority* and was organized in cooperation with *Kijufi – Berlin Association of Kids and Youths Film*.

In Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Berlin bilateral small groups created short films which portray German-Israeli relations from the young participants' perspective. Within two weeks the young film makers developed a concept, arranged interviews, shot further scenes, and examined, cut and edited the material. Two experienced media educators

accompanied the group during the film-making process. Together they learned how to work with camera and sound equipment, discussed screening and also the basics of journalistic and documentary work, as well as cinematic story telling.

Besides working on the short films, a broad program was offered. The young adults took part in a workshop about the history of German-Israeli relations, visited the Knesset and the Memorial House of the Wannsee Conference. They had interesting talks that lead to insights into different topics, e.g. together with filmmaker Arnon Goldfinger about his movie “The Flat.”

Five short films were the outcome of this youth encounter. Every film touches on a different topic which the young film makers chose to deal with, and the results are diverse: One film deals with the development and meaning of the German-



Israeli youth exchange and asks if and how these encounters affect and also change young people's lives. Another film, "The Knot," takes a creative turn and shows the development of the German-Israeli relations through an animation-like film in which the two main characters are shoes. The third film takes a look at the cultural "specialties" of both countries and follows the experiences of Germans in Israel and vice versa. In the film "Lost in Perception?" the group tried to find out what the perspectives are that people in Germany and Israel hold regarding each other. Alongside interviews on the streets with random people, the group also held interviews with experts on the matter, for instance with historian Moshe Zimmermann and political scientist Martin Kloke. "Let's Talk" deals with the presence of the past. It was inspired by Arnon Goldfinger's film "The Flat" and addresses the same issues of families dealing with their own personal past in different generations, today and in the past. In the process they met with former youth exchange participants, eyewitnesses, and educators in the area of memorial work.

All the films were presented at the German-Israeli Youth Congress in Berlin. A workshop allowed the participants to discuss the films with the creators and get insight into the working process behind the films. Two of the movies were shown during large plenum sessions of the congress.

Recently an educational handout to the films was published, thus allowing them to be shown and used in future German-Israeli youth exchanges as educational material. ConAct is happy to provide you with this.



Since October 2013, **Christin Henke** has been working as an educational coordinator for ConAct – Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange. For many years she guided groups of Sports Youth Saxony Anhalt in German-Israeli youth exchanges. At Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg and Freie Universität Berlin she studied Middle Eastern and Holocaust Studies. Ms. Henke joined the group of "Spotlight" on behalf of ConAct as one of the five group leaders.

OUR DAY AT YAD VASHEM

Established in 1953, Yad Vashem became the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust through different means: As the world center for the documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust, it is more than a museum – today it is a place of vital encounter and dialogue between people of different ages and nationalities.

As part of our youth congress, we spent a whole day in Yad Vashem, starting with guided tours on the complex of Mount Herzl and through the permanent

exhibition. Afterwards we were given the chance to listen to authentic voices of five Holocaust survivors: Henry Foner, Rina Quint, Asher Aud, Marta Weiss and Hannah Pick-Goslar. Their life stories – two of which are shared below – were very moving and made history truly come alive and become graspable. At the end of the day two ceremonies were carried out to commemorate the Holocaust. The official ceremony was followed by an alternative program created by our participants especially in honor of this occasion.



"I don't think all survivors have written down their story. Because of this, much information will be lost. Maybe we all should volunteer and help them write down their stories in book form."

Felix, youth congress participant from the Munich area



Get an impression of the day and watch the video taken by our youth media group!



HANNAH'S BEST FRIEND: MEMORIES OF ANNE FRANK



HANNAH PICK-GOSLAR MET ANNE FRANK IN 1933 IN THE NETHERLANDS. HANNAH HAD FLED TO THE NETHERLANDS WITH HER FAMILY, LEAVING BEHIND GERMANY. THEY BECAME BEST FRIENDS, BUT WERE SOON TO BE SEPARATED DUE TO THE OUTBREAK OF WAR AND THE EXCLUSION AND PERSECUTION OF JEWS. THEY MET ONCE AGAIN FOR THE LAST TIME – AT BERGEN-BELSEN. HANNAH AND HER SISTER SURVIVED AS THE ONLY MEMBERS OF THEIR EXTENDED FAMILY.

Hannah Pick-Goslar was born to a religious Jewish family in Berlin. Her father, a soldier in World War I, worked for Otto Braun, Prime Minister of Prussia (between 1920 and 1932). When the Nazis came to power in 1933, the family fled from Nazi Germany to Amsterdam in the Netherlands, where in 1940 Hannah's sister was born. In Amsterdam her first and best friend was Anne Frank. They lived in the same neighborhood, went to the same school and spent their afternoons together. As time passed, anti-Jewish laws in the Netherlands got stricter. When Anne Frank's sister was about to be sent to a "working camp in the East," the family went into hiding. Hannah thought they had fled to Switzerland.

Their Paraguayan passport got them on an exchange list to Palestine, which bought them more time to stay at home. In 1943 Hannah, her sister, father and grandparents were sent to Westerbork, a transit camp in the Netherlands. Thanks to their foreign passport they were sent from Westerbork to Bergen-Belsen, and not to Auschwitz or Sobibór, where most of the others in the camp were sent. In Bergen-Belsen, Hannah's sister got very sick, but thanks to the wife of her father's friend, she



Hannah Pick-Goslar and a youth congress participant at the commemoration ceremony at Yad Vashem

recovered. Hannah and her sister were placed in a camp for prisoners with foreign passports. At that camp there was a fence and behind it was the "less privileged" camp. They were not allowed to talk to the prisoners on the other side. One day Hannah learned that Anne Frank, her old friend, was in the other camp, and they managed to talk. Hannah tried to help Anne and shared food with her. The following day Hannah and her sister were taken to another camp, but on the way there the Russian army attacked the train, allowing the sisters to flee to a little village nearby, staying there until the end of the war. Hannah met Anne's father after the war in the hospital where she was placed, and learned that Anne had not survived the war. Otto Frank took care of the sisters and helped them cross the border to Switzerland where their uncle lived. In 1947, Hannah emigrated to Israel. Hannah and her sister are the only members of the family who survived. Their father and grandmother died in Bergen-Belsen, their grandfather in Westerbork.



More on Hannah Pick-Goslar's life and her recollections of her best friend Anne Frank are available in interview form.

HENRY FONER'S TRAIN TO LIFE



YAD VASHEM IS BUILT AROUND THE STORIES OF PEOPLE. HENRY FONER IS ONE OF THEM. BORN JUNE 12, 1932, AS HEINZ LICHTWITZ IN BERLIN, HE LEFT GERMANY IN THE WINTER OF 1938/39 AS ONE OF 10 000 CHILDREN SAVED FROM NAZI TERROR THROUGH KINDERTRANSPORTE.

At the intersection of Georgenstraße and Friedrichstraße, Berlin, there's an almost life-size sculpture of children depicted in bronze – five cast in dark metal, two in light. Seven boys and girls gaze in different directions, facing different fates. More than two million children lost their lives in the Holocaust. 10 000 were saved by the Kindertransport to England.

"It started with the Kristallnacht," Foner remembers. On the night of November 9, 1938, SA paramilitary forces destroyed Jewish-owned stores, buildings and synagogues. Hundreds of Jews were murdered, thousands incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps. "After that night everybody realized that there was no future in Germany for Jews," Foner's

family had lived in Germany since 1560 and gained Prussian citizenship in 1736. From Kantstraße 30, Berlin-Charlottenburg, the family ran a printing house. There are still books out there that were produced by printing house Max Lichtwitz.

Foner's father arranged for his son to be part of the Kindertransport. Originally the children were to be brought to the then British Mandate of Palestine, but several groups opposed this. In the end, Great Britain agreed to grant 10 000 Jewish children permission to reside in their country for two years – assuming, and hoping, that after two years they would no longer need protection. It was mostly Jewish families all over the country who offered to take children in.

FALLING INTO ANOTHER WORLD

Foner doesn't remember the last time he saw his father. He has no memory of the parting. "The older children always drew pictures of the goodbye, but I don't remember," Foner says. The train journey, however, he portrays in much detail. How they sat in the compartments, scared and unsure of what was about to come, how the train stopped at the border to the Netherlands and men in uniforms searched their luggage. And how the train stopped again after crossing the border to the Netherlands



and how ladies with white hats entered and passed around rolls and sausages. "It felt like we had fallen into another world."

After their arrival in Hoek van Holland they took the ferry boat to England. At Liverpool Street Station, Foner took the train to meet his new family, a family that he couldn't speak with. They didn't speak German, he didn't know any English yet. With a few words of Yiddish they managed to communicate. In this new world the name Heinz Lichtwitz attracted attention – attention that could be dangerous. So Heinz Lichtwitz became Henry Foner.

POSTCARDS TO A LITTLE BOY

Six-year-old Henry went to school, got adjusted to his new life. The only means of contact with his father were postcards. Almost every other day Max Lichtwitz sent them, asking about his son's life, health, sending greetings, kisses and prayers. On the evening of Henry's seventh birthday, father and son talked for the first and last time. They scheduled this phone call days before. Then the phone rang. When Henry answered, he recognized the voice, but he couldn't understand what the man on the other end of line was saying. "I had forgotten all my German," Foner explains. So the postcards continued in English.

The last postcard was written on August 31, 1939.

One day before Nazi Germany invaded Poland, before World War II began. From this point on there were no more postcards. Foner and his father continued to communicate via Red Cross telegrams, limited to 25 words. Eventually those stopped, too. Max Lichtwitz died in Auschwitz in 1942.

A NEW HOME

Henry Foner never became Heinz Lichtwitz again. "He died a long time ago," says the 83-year-old. Foner visited Germany after the war. His uncle, who was trying to rebuild the family home and business, asked him to come and visit. Sometimes Foner traveled to Germany for business. But he never thought about moving back. While studying chemistry he came in touch with his original mother tongue, but his childhood knowledge of the German language remained lost.

Foner met his wife Judy on a train when visiting Israel for the first time. "It was the best train ride of my life. Life is all about luck," he smiles. The Foners moved to Israel in the 1960s and have been married for over 50 years now. It may have simply been luck that allowed Henry Foner's life to be saved through the Kindertransport. Luck, that his life's story is symbolized by the light bronze figures at Friedrichstraße, taking the train to life, while so many others ended up on trains to death.



"Life sometimes is just about luck. People who went through so much in their life can still see the positive. The most inspirational thing about Holocaust survivor Henry Foner is to see how he carried on with his life, happily living in Israel with his wife and children, and establishing a successful career. He did all this despite being deprived from living with his biological parents as a child, and despite so much having been taken away from him. There are lucky coincidences in life and we should really pursue what we want to do in life."

Cecilia, youth congress participant from Hamburg

COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES AT YAD VASHEM



Finding ways of shared commemoration of the Jewish victims of National Socialism is both a crucial task and an obvious challenge in all German-Israeli youth encounters. Israeli and German youth exchange partners have developed different verbal and nonverbal ways of creating shared commemoration of the past and its victims. Two commemoration ceremonies were carried out in Yad Vashem in order to honor the victims as well as several survivors of the Holocaust.

The first ceremony was held in the Hall of Remembrance by officials of Yad Vashem in the presence of Bettina Bundszus-Cecere, General Director of the Department Children and Youth at the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and Dr. Eyal Kaminka, Director of the Lily Safra Chair of Holocaust Education at Yad Vashem.

Theresa and Michael, two of our participants were invited to rekindle the Eternal Flame while the usher read out an "identification" (with the Holocaust victims). Ms. Bundszus-Cecere and Mr. Kaminka

laid down a wreath and Cantor Asher Hainowitz concluded the ceremony with a recitation of "El Maleh Rahamim," a prayer for the souls of the martyrs.

The second ceremony was created by participants of the youth congress. Most of the invited delegations of bilateral exchange projects were requested to send one person to engage in a working group to prepare the shared ceremony. Within the framework of the youth congress, the hours for this discussion and process were limited and could have been more.

In a few meetings they collected both texts and further creative cultural elements of recent shared commemoration ceremonies of their own exchange projects in order to plan the ceremony for the German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015. The core part included honoring 16 Holocaust survivors by handing out a certificate to each of them of a tree planted by the Jewish National Fund Keren Kayemet LeYisrael as a sign of life for the families of the survivors.

THE SCHEDULE OF THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY WAS AS FOLLOWS

- **Personal note** by Larissa Smurago, youth congress participant
- **Poem "I Was There"** by Israel Hadari – read by Larissa Smurago
- **Music** by Conservatory Givatayim and Leo Kestenberg Music School
- **Address** by Dalit Atrakchi, Ph.D., Acting Director of Senior Division of External Relations and UNESCO Ministry of Education, Secretary General of the Israeli Commission for UNESCO
- **Address** by Bettina Bundszus-Cecere, General Director of the Department Children and Youth at the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- **Song "Elohai"** – presented by members of the theater project "Translating Tracks into Life"
- **Honoring 16 Holocaust survivors** with a certificate of a planted tree by young Germans and Israelis
- **Address of Asher Oud**, Holocaust survivor, speaking on behalf of the survivors
- **Song "Schlaflied für Anne"** by Fredrik Vahle – presented by members of the theater project "Translating Tracks into Life"

MANIFESTATIONS IN WORDS

- **"Joint Declaration"** – formulated by the umbrella organizations of youth movements in Germany, Poland and Israel in Oświęcim, 2015 – read by Julia Müller, youth congress participant
- **"Manifesto"** – formulated by the German-Israeli theater project "Translating Tracks into Life" for a commemoration ceremony in Ravensbrück, 2014 – read by Tal Elkabets and Christopher Schreiber, youth congress participants
- **"Memorandum"** of the think tank on "Creating and Forming Society," German-Israeli Youth Congress in Berlin, 2015 – read by Max Jatzkowski, youth congress participant
- **Song "Halleluja"** – melody without words, presented by the preparation group of the ceremony at Yad Vashem

PERSONAL NOTE BY PARTICIPANT LARISSA SMURAGO

What does commemorating the Shoah mean? What does commemorating mean, if what is commemorated can neither be covered by rational thought nor by thinking? How can we find a language for something that cannot be explained, cannot be described? What is the language we're supposed to use?

A German-Jewish philosopher once said that writing poems after Auschwitz is barbaric. The poet Paul Celan, who changed his mind and made him revise this remark, had only one adequate way to express the unspeakable: his language. It was and is – when reading his poems today – an urging lamentation, reminding us of the present, from the perspective of the past. As long as hatred exists, the lamentation will remain.

Commemorating means: hoping the best, but always expecting the worst. I can't say if we managed to find the words for the unspeakable. I don't know if it is possible to find them at all.



HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH EXCHANGE IN PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

A SUMMARY OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION BY YONI AYALON, PH.D.



NILI KEREN, PH.D.

"COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY."

"The main problem in dealing with the past in the exchange programs is the multicultural society that we are living in. We are not speaking about the same German society that lived years ago, and it is not the same Israeli society that existed years ago. [...]"

I belong to the second generation after the Holocaust. My grandchildren are already the fourth generation. [...] What the Holocaust means for us, our generation, for the survivors, is not necessarily what it means for the third, fourth and fifth generation. This was the main challenge when we decided to create the educational kit for a shared German-Israeli commemoration of the Holocaust. [...]"

We all agreed that you have to know the past, you need to know what happened. Then you have to decide what you are going to take from it. When you go to a concentration camp and to a memorial site – you have to decide what it is that you are commemorating, and not what your father wanted you to commemorate, because it is your future. We, the first and second generation, are already a part of the past in many ways. So we gave you tools and I hope you'll use them."



After 60 years of youth exchange we all, Germans and Israelis, ask ourselves questions regarding our mutual past, the Holocaust, the present situation – and of course mainly about the future. As researchers of our history we tried to raise thoughts and ideas regarding the difficult questions from our mutual past. Looking at and debating core issues that regard our difficult past may help us as all in our task as educators of the 4th and 5th generation since the Holocaust.

In order to get answers, I asked the honorable panel the following questions:

What is your opinion on current German-Israeli relations? Are they still "special relations" or do we have to foster regular relations, especially in our work in youth exchange?

Based on our mutual past, how do you think that we can preserve the memory of the Holocaust in youth exchange?

What are the future challenges of youth exchange?

What is each person's and each organization's task in the future of German-Israeli youth exchange?

Here are some notes and quotes from the panel participants.

PROF. IZHAK SCHNELL – “THE HOLOCAUST AS A DISTANT INCIDENT.”

“The main point which bothers me in the first generation’s narrative of the Holocaust, in Germany and in Israel, is the process of distancing the Holocaust from our everyday life, or what is relevant to our lives: In Israel we speak about the Holocaust as an incident from a different planet, something outside history, that was even beyond any kind of behavior that human beings can imagine – it is portrayed as something that wasn’t done by human beings, but instead by some kind of evil creatures living outside of history. In Germany the same process has happened: You learn in school about the Holocaust, but there is an attitude that it was in fact done by the Nazis and ‘we are Germans’ on the contrary. So here also you find distancing. [...]

I think now that we have reached the point where the generations who actually experienced World War II are dying of old age – sadly – it’s time to take responsibility and to bring back Holocaust history into our everyday lives. The Holocaust was done by human beings, among them maybe your neighbor, or your grandfather! I need to ask myself how I would behave if under a lot of psychological or social-psychological pressure. [...]

And this is where we need to take responsibility: Because the evils of genocide continue to happen in this world. We can sit at home and say: ‘This is in Ruanda, this is in Syria, this is over there – it’s not my business.’ Or we can take responsibility.”



YARIV LAPID – “HOW TO EDUCATE ABOUT THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE.”

“Do we know today how to present mass murder in a classroom? [...] How can I help my students to imagine three minutes in 1944 in a place like Mauthausen? It’s so distant from our imagination. It’s almost a psychological impossibility to describe that horror. So how should a teacher deal with that? [...]

We are pretty much at the start, and I think that the first thing we need to do is to acknowledge our helplessness in understanding the subject matter. Because how can you talk about something that you don’t understand? This is a very deep and problematic question.

One of the first things that would help us is to acknowledge and share our ‘not-understanding’ with the kids. This doesn’t mean that teachers have to say: ‘I’ve got no idea. Just do what you want.’ But it means and demands from us a very well-structured educational system that doesn’t lose sight of the main goal. And that means to delegate a lot of the question of interest to the kids, instead of just leading them through the memorial sites and then returning back to everyday life.”

YOSSI GILAD – “THE FLASHLIGHT!”

“[...] There is something I heard from a Holocaust survivor, Chavka Folman from Lochamei Hagetaot. She died recently, unfortunately. She approached me and asked if she could join me at a seminar that I was leading in their museum. [...] And then she told me in the evening, as we sat down to eat in the dining hall: ‘I know what you are doing,’ and I knew that she was about to make a compliment. So I waited and she said to me: ‘You are teaching them how to build *flashlights*.’ [...] In literature there is something that is called a ‘metaphor’ – I didn’t understand the metaphor, but I smiled and said: ‘Thank you.’

The next morning she met me in the dining hall and told me: ‘Yossi, you didn’t understand what I said, right?’ And I told her: ‘Yes, you are right.’ – ‘You’re teaching them to build *flashlights*!’ – ‘Chavka, I tell you, this is not what we are doing.’ – ‘Yes you are! If you go with those youngsters to visit the dark parts of human history, Jewish history, German and European history – you need to have a *flashlight*. And those discussions and the learning methods are the materials you’re building the *flashlight* with.’

That *flashlight* is something to not only use during the trip or the encounter. It stays with you for



life. Whenever there is darkness you can take the flashlight from this experience and shine it on the moral values that you were so brave to talk about then, in dealing with the past. And now talking about your own present, about your own society: We all have dark parts in our societies, in our countries. But what is the flashlight that we are using? Is it something that is connected to the past, or not? This is our choice!”



CREATING AND FORMING SOCIETY





Engagement, volunteering and living democracy: What are we contributing to shaping multicultural and tolerant societies in Germany and Israel? New challenges are waiting to be met in every generation. Creating and forming society means to participate in processes of social change, which is certainly not easy most of the time, but worth every effort. We discussed ways of how to make a difference: on panels, in creative workshops and think tanks, developing ideas for future projects in youth exchange and encounters.

CREATING AND FORMING SOCIETY

A SUMMARY OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION BY DIRK THESENVITZ

With most of the panelists having a strong youth movement background, the discussion quickly developed into a debate about the important impact political education in democratic nongovernmental structures has to offer in equipping young people on their way to becoming responsible citizens. It became clear that while civil societies in both countries, Israel and Germany, have profited immensely from the contributions of youth associations to building up politically sustainable democracies after 1945, their value used to be more visibly acknowledged in Israel, where e.g. the involvement of youth movements in official ceremonies was seen as a sign of public recognition. Sustaining independent youth structures by the state, regardless of the government's political party preferences, was therefore mentioned as

a necessary condition for young people to make future contributions to creating and forming society. Another demand was more tolerance towards minority groups like Israeli Arabs or Jewish youth of different nationalities in Germany, whose representatives on the panel found they had to constantly explain and justify their multiple loyalties towards the country they lived in and towards their own respective communities. A common denominator of all contributors, including voices from the audience, was the importance of keeping the balance between more practical contributions to society, such as charitable work, on the one hand and more theoretical, educational activities on the other hand, the latter also necessarily extending to political involvement with reliable partners in governments and political parties.



Dirk Thesenvitz works as the advisor for international ecumenical youth work at the Protestant Youth Federation in Germany. Mr. Thesenvitz studied History at Technische Universität Berlin. During the first part of our youth congress in Berlin he moderated the panel on "Creating and Forming Society."

MUSIC FOR EXCHANGE

The exchange project between Leo Kestenberg Music School and the Conservatory Givatayim can today look back on a successful collaboration. The first contact was already in 2006, but it took another two years until the first encounter was realized in Berlin in October 2008. Over the years an intense musical collaboration and a steady exchange has developed, as well as deep friendships that last until today.

In the end the connection results from musician Leo Kestenberg (1882-1962), who the music school is named after. Kestenberg emigrated via Prague to Israel when he was expelled from Berlin by the Nazis. Aharon Shefi, a former student of Kestenberg and founder of the Conservatory Givatayim, came across the website of the Leo Kestenberg Music School and established the contact.



At the German-Israeli Youth Congress in Berlin the youth string orchestras of both schools met again to participate with some remarkable contributions, performing pieces of Grieg, Sibelius, Leroy Anderson and two Israeli songs arranged by Shlomo Tintpulver. The highlight was a delightful string concert on Sunday evening, May 10, 2015, as part of the cultural program "The Whole World of Encounters." A half year later they reunited in Israel to perform in several parts of our program in Neve Ilan and Yad Vashem. The string orchestra is living proof that culture and art can make a difference, bringing together youth with different backgrounds and contributing to building healthy societies.

THEATER WORKSHOP

"Voices which haven't been heard during the last days will get attention in this workshop. Together we will work out how to express what is important for us and what must not be ignored or lost. Music, pantomime, dance, poems or dialogues; personal, political, philosophical or just culinary – we are explaining to a partner what is important for us and looking for a way to do so. Our partner then presents our wishes and concerns in the performance, and vice versa. Through this creative dialogue we express our concerns very precisely, and through the reflection of our partner we discover in a new way what is important to us."

(Danielle-Natalie Kind and Andreas Wrosch, workshop facilitators)



DANCE WORKSHOP

"Modern dance gives the possibility to create a common language beyond language barriers, cultural, social and religious differences. Dancing uncovers inner feelings to the outside and gives space to the other for his own understanding, his own imagination. At the dance workshop the participants reflect on their experiences, thoughts and feelings regarding German-Israeli youth exchange. After looking for topics together, we will try out different ideas through improvisation. Living

pictures that lead to a short dance performance will then be developed. True to the motto of No Limit 'Everybody can dance,' experience in dancing is not needed."

(Stefanie Trogisch, No Limit – Dance Workshops Berlin e.V.)



DANCING SIMILARITIES!

"I think we should choose to focus on what we have in common than on the things that separate us," said Stefanie Swieca, dance pedagogue.

She and a group of 20 young Germans and Israelis worked on the choreography they later presented. They started by writing down their daily emotions on a piece of paper. These thoughts then served as a basis from which the dance was developed. German participant Christiane-Elisabeth was excited about the workshop: "Creating something together that deals with feelings we all have in common – I love it!"



CIRCUS WORKSHOP

"We will put ourselves and our perceptions of the last days in motion. By circus pedagogical methods of building pyramids and juggling we will discover what ideas, dreams and wishes are inside of us. We will also look at ideas and wishes for the future that

have developed over the past days. The aim is to present your visions for the future with a small circus performance."

(Theresa Rossenbach, Circus Cabuwazi)



INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR OPHER AVIRAN ON GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND THE RISE OF RADICAL POLITICAL MOVEMENTS

MR. OPHER AVIRAN HAS RECENTLY BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR AND COORDINATOR FOR GERMAN AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ISRAEL. OUR YOUTH MEDIA GROUP TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN BOTH COUNTRIES SUCH AS MIGRATION AND THE RISE OF RADICAL POLITICAL MOVEMENTS.



Q Mr. Aviran, you have been appointed the responsible person for German-Israeli relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Israel. What were you thinking the moment you were offered this position?

A Ambassador Opher Aviran: It meant a lot to me. I had just returned from the US, where I was Consul General of Israel to the Southeast, not knowing what task would come next. Then this offer came in and I was like "wow." I felt very honored. After the US, I am now dealing with Germany – the two most important partners of Israel.

Q In your speech you said: "A lot has to be done, a lot has already been done." What are your plans regarding German-Israeli relations?

A The sky is the limit. Youth exchange is really important. Generally, education is a major issue. Also, I see that right now migration from Middle Eastern countries is a topic in Germany. We were and still are dealing with the major wave of immigration in the past. In the 1990s, one million Jewish immigrants

from the former Soviet Union arrived in Israel and our population grew by 20 percent. The people back then came with a very positive attitude, but still, the challenge of integrating them was an effort due to the sheer size of this wave of immigration. So I believe we can share our experiences with Germany. Also we started professional and vocational training programs which fostered the integration of the Jewish ultra-orthodox and especially the Muslim Bedouin communities into our society. This is also an area where we can share our experiences with Germany.

Q Recently "Pegida" – a populist right-wing movement, to say the least – became a phenomenon in Germany. Does this worry you?

A As the journalist Nadav Eyal pointed out, I think it is more than this. We are facing a tripartite problem. There are radical Islamists who are mainly killing their own brothers in faith in the Middle East, but are now also attacking our western civilization in Europe, just a few days ago killing hundreds of innocent people in Paris. Then, there is the extreme radical right and, confusingly, also the radical left. There is this strange coalition between those who claim to hold liberal ideas, but support countries and organizations like Iran and the Hamas, Iran's terror arm, where gays and lesbians are persecuted.

Q Is there something you particularly like when in Germany?

A I am looking forward to the next time I will be there. This will be in the beginning of next year. I will travel to Berlin and Munich to visit our Embassy and Consulate General, and then, at the end of a long day of meetings, I'll change out of my suit into something more casual and enjoy a bit of Berlin or Munich's nightlife.

CREATING FUTURE PROJECTS FOR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND ENCOUNTERS

The German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 focused on three main topics which in one way or the other appear to be relevant in German-Israeli exchange projects of today. Those three topics – "Creating and Forming Society," "Understanding Diverse Life Realities" and "Living with History" – also built the structure of this booklet.

IN CONTINUOUS ENCOUNTER GROUPS, BRINGING TOGETHER THE SAME GROUP OF PEOPLE DAILY, A FRAME WAS OFFERED TO REFLECT UPON THE PROGRAM OF THE DAY AND TO DEEPEN THE DISCUSSION ON THE NAMED TOPICS.

One of the last tasks for the encounter groups was to create ideas for concrete projects in the field of German-Israeli youth contacts – arising from previous discussions throughout the congress. The ideas were written down and handed over to the Israel Youth Exchange Authority and ConAct. We are very grateful for this inspiration – it shows spheres of interest and tasks which we will keep in mind for our future work!

The ideas, topics and projects named by the young participants can be clustered in the following way. They appear as a kind of "call for action," here mostly put together in expressions and terms of the participants:

WORKING AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Raising awareness for the subject of discrimination – encouraging young people to be activists while sharing the experience of mutual learning: Target groups to work with should be teachers and educators as well as youth, including minorities from both countries.

A youth exchange could build a Facebook platform with an interactive calendar, aiming at organizing activities, educational projects, protest, social

events and the like. Social media could be used for "action against discrimination."

SHARING ACTIVITIES

Shared interests and hobbies should be the basis for exchange projects in the future – focusing on theater, music, sports, interest in civic education or economic ideas. The projects should aim at making concrete results become visible to others, for instance through concerts, theater plays or presentations.

Projects could more intensively work with the concept of host families and share the continuous contact throughout the encounter. Former participants should share their expertise and be future leaders of exchange programs.

LIVING GLOBALIZATION

German and Israeli society is made up of people with different cultural backgrounds – including refugees arriving in both countries. Intercultural influences are global and need to be shared in encounter projects. Program days could include learning about family history, food traditions, sayings, jokes, youth culture, differing narratives in individually and collectively shared stories. Aspects of daily life as well as literature, art and music should be worked on. A photography project could also help to come into contact and create "one's own picture." Language barriers need to be overcome by facilitators and professionals doing preparatory work for such meetings.

ACTING BEYOND BORDERS

The wish to cross existing borders is inspiring a number of project ideas. Youth encounters that include youth from Israel, Germany and the Palestinian Authority are being suggested. One thought is to create works of art together, so as to stage an exhibition. Another idea aims at the foundation of an Israeli-Arab-German youth orchestra: Couldn't European classical music and Middle Eastern music and instruments be of great value to the existing cooperation

of young musicians? One suggestion was the creation of trilateral TV-shows made by young people, involving youth of different educational background. Yet another project focuses on the exchange of volunteers within this triangle. The idea of volunteering is vibrant in many respects. One idea is to bring Arab Israelis to Germany in order to help bridge cultural gaps between arriving refugees and German society.

A new idea would be to try out an Israeli-German-Iranian youth camp that could bring together young people in a summer camp, offering sports activities but also workshops focusing on cultural diversity, history and the threats of stereotypes and racism.

EXCHANGE AGAINST STEREOTYPES

To reduce the presence and spreading of prejudices is the aim of many of the projects named above. The wish is to bring together young people from Israel and Germany with different origins, social statuses or other factors that make belong them to the weaker parts of society. The fear of the unknown

should be overcome. And activities should be free of charge. Anonymous registration should be possible.

Adding to this, more knowledge and understanding about Judaism should be spread, especially among refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. They should be able to get to know people from Israel, including partners from Arab youth movements – encounters, workshops, meetings at educational centers are requested!

The ideas mentioned above for future projects will of course include challenges and will request courage from all wishing to implement new formats, ideas and topics in the field of youth exchange. ConAct and the Israel Youth Exchange Authority will take into consideration the suggested ideas when creating future projects.

Let's do it. Be part of it – let's put the ideas of the participants of the German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 into practice!



MEMORANDUM OF THE GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH CONGRESS BERLIN

The following memorandum was elaborated by participants of the German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 in Berlin. The youths that formulated the three following demands met during a congress workshop called "Creating and Forming Societies" and discussed about future challenges in their civic engagement in both countries. The three demands were presented to the Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and the German President Joachim Gauck on May 11, 2015, in Berlin.

"We as a group of young Israelis and Germans met this morning and discussed about our social and political engagement in our societies: What is the significance of voluntary engagement? How can we combat intolerance and racism in our societies? Which challenges do we face in our commitment? As a result of our discussion we formulated three demands that we would like to present to you:

1. We demand proper funding for: Diversity in content – diversity in participants – diversity in education methods – and diversity in resources. This will enable us engaged and socially active youths to connect to one another through mutual interests, to mix all parts of society, to be able to engage all participants into the program, and to be accountable for ourselves and our ideas and hopes for the future.
2. We would like to suggest that the lessons we took out of the Shoah are not only important to Germans and Israelis, but for all humankind. There is a time in the near future when all survivors of the Shoah will be gone. But the lessons that the Shoah taught all of us – to stand up for human rights and to fight for humanity – must last forever. These lessons are important to everyone and hold us responsible as humans. Especially as youths we do have a responsibility to struggle for social equality and human rights, a responsibility to preserve our historical remembrance, and a responsibility to empower young people with the values of humanity, freedom, solidarity, equality and respect – and to speak out against hatred and violence.
3. We demand from ourselves as young people to stand up for our joint future. We should not rest on the achievements made so far, but continue building personal relationships between ourselves and motivate other youths to take an active part in forming our society."

Berlin, May 11, 2015



RETROSPECTIVE



MEDIA RESPONSE



Various media covered the youth congress throughout the event and in the aftermath. First of all our own bilateral youth media group, the “Raving Reporters” – consisting mostly of members of the Press Network for Topics on Youth and young professionals from Rishon LeZion – contributed continuously to the congress blog through articles, videos and photos.

Take a look at www.youth-congress-2015.org!



Furthermore we have the coverage of the established media. Newspapers, journals and magazines, radio stations and television broadcasters showed a great interest in the German-Israeli youth exchange in general and particularly in the youth congress in Berlin. Most of their pieces have been published only in German, but a few videos were also subtitled or they contain English speeches. Listed below you find a selection of those videos:

GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH CONGRESS 2015: A VIDEO LOG

DEUTSCHLAND.de, May 19, 2015

“300 youths traveled from Israel and all of Germany to this year’s youth congress to Berlin and kept a log with their smart phones. They discussed history and the present, learned from each other and celebrated together. Highlight of the event was the visit of the President of Israel Rivlin and the Federal President Gauck.”



GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH CONGRESS 2015

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, May 8, 2015

“On the occasion of the German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015, 300 youths from both countries came to Berlin. Between May 8 and 11 they will discuss the German-Israeli relations in history and the present, as well as their significance for the young generations. The Federal Ministry for Youth asked a few participants for their experiences in youth exchange.”



60 YEARS GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH EXCHANGE

Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, May 12, 2015

“From May 8 to 11, 2015, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs invited to the German-Israeli Youth Congress to Berlin. In the end the Federal Minister for Youth, Manuela Schwesig, Federal President Joachim Gauck and the Israeli President Reuven Rivlin stressed the importance of youth exchange between Germany and Israel.”



VOICES AND FEEDBACK

When 300 people come together to participate in a congress – an event taking place over a number of days at various locations – there are possibly more than 300 individual perspectives on the convention. In addition, not everyone experiences the exact same event, since the congress offered many options of parallel workshops and lectures.

In the end everyone had a unique experience within a different schedule. Adding to this, it is obvious that individual preferences differ – one person appreciates a concrete input and discussion, another one prefers creating things other than thoughts; a field trip which is considered extremely interesting by one person appears boring to another.

WE HAVE COMPILED A SELECTION OUT OF A GREAT NUMBER OF VOICES AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE YOUTH CONGRESS. ALL QUOTATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE ONLINE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY CONACT IN JUNE AND DECEMBER 2015. WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ENCOURAGING, INSPIRING, DISTINGUISHED, AND BOTH POSITIVE AND CRITICAL FEEDBACK ON YOUR EXPERIENCE OF BOTH PARTS OF THE GERMAN-ISRAELI YOUTH CONGRESS 2015!

“I very much enjoyed the workshops. The small groups were a great way to express myself and to hear what others thought.”

“My favorite thing during the congress was the possibility of meeting new people, people from my country and from Germany.”

“Personally I really enjoyed the tour offerings. I participated in the tour which started at the monument for the murdered Jews in Europe, which for me was really interesting and rewarding. I also loved the orchestra and would have liked to hear more from them.”

“The day on Saturday was very political. It was a very passive day for us participants, witnessing only older male and female politicians display how well they have worked. I understood the purpose of the day, so I am not disappointed at all. But it seemed like we had so much to share with each other, and it was a bit frustrating not to be able to do so on that day.”

“The cultural program was genius!”

“On the first day of the congress it was hard to find any vegan food. Later on the catering got much better. Anyway, please make sure there is enough food for everybody! And pomegranate juice, of course. :)”

“I would have wished to talk more about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Especially in the forum ‘Creating and Forming Societies.’ It seemed as if we were talking about German society and German history and how the German media portrays Israel, but we haven’t spoken much about Israeli societies. Also in the encounter groups or small workshops there was not much time to discuss this more.”

“I think we talked too much about the past and the focus should be much more on the future.”

“The team was great, and so was the program and the dynamic of the congress. I just wish it had never ended!”

“I liked the encounter groups most, even if our ideas were very different and we had tough discussions.”

“The encounter with the Holocaust survivors was deeply touching and interesting, and I feel very privileged to have been given that opportunity.”

“I enjoyed the lecture by Hilik Bar the most. That helped the participants understand Israeli reality.”

“There should have been more focus on planning future projects and creating together, less should have been dedicated to ‘touring’ Israel – visiting the Knesset, Yad Vashem and Jerusalem tour – things that a lot of the congress participants have already been to before.”

“I missed talking about the future of the relations in more practical means. We only had an hour for ideas, and when we finally had a panel about the future it was about Shoah education... there is so much more to talk about than Shoah education...”

"An Israeli-German youth conference should take part in both countries. I am very happy you managed to make it possible to have a second part in Israel."

"Besides the full program (very long days – which was very exhausting – even though they were really interesting) and some missing announcements... the congress was organized AMAZINGLY well!!!"

"I think the two parts of the congress fit together amazingly well. Both had their distinct strengths and highlights."

"The congress was all in all a very interesting experience for me. I met so many interesting and nice people who today are still my friends. I would take part in those kinds of projects any time again."

"It was a very intense experience and I think it was good to have some time between the two parts, although it wasn't planned."

"I know it is not possible, but I would like to continue the encounter groups, because it was very interesting to get in contact with the other youth projects."

"There should be more youth participating in the congress – not only 'young adults' or people who work with youth."

"I would have wished that in preparing the ceremony there would have been room and more opportunity to participate."

"Generally it would have been nice to have had more time for informal interaction. The program in both parts seemed stuffed, with very little time for breaks. [...]"



Members of the youth media group in their editorial office in Berlin

FULL CONGRESS PROGRAMS, PART I AND PART II



PROGRAM PART 1

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015

Arriving in Berlin...

- Morning** Arrival and check-in
Motel One, Invalidenstraße 54, 10557 Berlin
www.motel-one.com/de/hotels/berlin/hotel-berlin-hauptbahnhof
- 10:00 am** Transport to **conference center "Jerusalem Church"**
 Lindenstraße 85, 10969 Berlin
www.besondere-orte.com
- 11:00 am** Registration for the German-Israeli Youth Congress
- 12:00 pm** Lunch at conference center "Jerusalem Church"
- 01:00 pm** **Welcome to the German-Israeli Youth Congress**
- Christine Mähler**, ConAct
Ariella Gill, Israel Youth Exchange Authority
- Getting to know one another in bilateral encounter groups**
- 03:30 pm** Group picture in the big hall of "Jerusalem Church"
- 04:00 pm** **Discovery Tours in Berlin**
 Options to choose from:
- Jewish Berlin I – New Synagogue at Oranienburger Straße
 - Jewish Berlin II – Bavarian Quarter
 - German Post-War History I – "Palace of Tears"
 - German Post-War History II – "The Wall"
 - Exploring Berlin – From Central Station to Potsdam Square
 - Media in Berlin
 - Exploring the Multicultural District of Kreuzberg
 - Streetart in Kreuzberg

06:00 pm Dinner at conference center "Jerusalem Church"

06:30 pm Optional: Visiting a synagogue in Berlin for the beginning of Shabbat

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015

What Are We Celebrating? German-Israeli Relations and Encounters in Voices and Stories

9:30 am Arrival at the congress venue "Kalkscheune"
 Johannisstraße 2, 10117 Berlin
www.kalkscheune.de

Warm-up and moderation

Hanni Efremov, Israel Youth Exchange Authority
 Christine Mähler, ConAct

10:00 am **Opening of the German-Israeli Youth Congress**

Dr. Ralf Kleindiek, Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs,
 Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Rogel Rachman, Head of Public Relations,
 Embassy of the State of Israel to Germany

German-Israeli Relations in 50 Years: Challenges – Successes – Perspectives

Panel discussion with

Shimon Stein, Former Ambassador of the State of Israel to Germany

Lukas Welz, Young Forum of the German-Israeli Society, Germany

Nava Semel, Author, Israel

Kerstin Griese, German-Israeli Parliamentary Group, Germany

Keren Pardo, Educator in Israeli-German Encounters, Israel

Irith Gabriely, Musician, Israel/Germany

Moderation: Dr. Alexandra Nocke, Cultural Scientist, Berlin

- 12:00 pm** Deepening the discussion – meeting in bilateral encounter groups
- 01:00 pm** Lunch break
- 02:30 pm** **60 Years of German-Israeli Youth Encounters: Approaching – Cooperating – Becoming Friends**
- Parallel roundtables with guests of different generations and organizations in two forums
- Forum 1:**
German-Israeli Youth Exchange in History and in the Present
 Introduction to the history of German-Israeli youth exchange – Presenting milestones of 60 years of youth exchange – www.exchange-visions.de
Jonas M. Hahn, ConAct
- Roundtable discussion with
Francoise Cafri, Municipality of Jerusalem
Immanuel Benz, German Federal Youth Council
Tanja Berg, Educator of the youth exchange project Tel Aviv – Berlin-Pankow
Meyrav Kopito, Municipality of Rishon LeZion
Hermann Sieben, Coordinator for exchange projects of IJAB with Israel (1973-1998)
- Moderation: Jonas M. Hahn**, ConAct
- Presentation of the book **“Moving Moments Connecting for Life – German-Israeli Youth Exchange in Research and Practice”**
Christine Mähler, ConAct
- Forum 2:**
German-Israeli Volunteer Services in History and in the Present
 Roundtable discussion with
Sabine von Zastrow, Friends of the Education of Rudolf Steiner
Irith Gabriely, Musician, Israel/Germany
Benjamin Fischer, Volunteer at the Central Welfare Organization of Jews in Germany
Laura Cazés, Central Welfare Organization of Jews in Germany
Dr. Christoph Stegmanns, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- Moderation: Dr. Jochen Palenker**, Central Coun

- 04:30 pm** Coffee break
- 05:00 pm** **And what Have YOU Experienced?**
- Workshops deepening the discussions of Forums 1 and 2, following and mixing the structures of youth exchange and volunteer services
- Workshop, May 9 – 01:**
Facing the Presence of the Past in German-Israeli Encounters
Dr. Elke Gryglewski, House of the Wannsee Conference
Uriel Kashj, Educator, Israel
- Workshop, May 9 – 02:**
East-West Germany – A Topic for German-Israeli Youth Exchange?
Bianca Ely, Educator, Berlin
Rudi Pahnke, Institute New Impulses, Berlin
- Workshop, May 9 – 03:**
German-Israeli Youth Exchange – A Project of Elites or Open for Everyone?
Dr. Simone Heil, Political Scientist
Francoise Cafri, Municipality of Jerusalem
- Workshop, May 9 – 04:**
The Other and the Self – Observing Specific Dynamics in German-Israeli Youth Encounters
Alma Lessing, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Keren Pardo, Educator in Israeli-German encounters, Israel
- Workshop, May 9 – 05:**
Visiting the Other Country – The Essential Trigger for a Lasting Exchange Experience?
Yoni Ayalon, Ph.D., Tourist Expert, Israel
Juliane Niklas, Bavarian Youth Council
- Workshop, May 9 – 06:**
Changing Views and Opinions – The Experience of Participation in an Exchange Program
Michal Maroz, Educator, Israel
Tanja Berg, Educator of the youth exchange project Tel Aviv – Berlin-Pankow

Workshop, May 9 – 07:
Working on Concrete Projects – A Strategy in International Youth Exchanges
Judith Blum, Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future, Berlin
Dor Posner, Tzofim – Israeli Scouts

Workshop, May 9 – 08:
Experiences of Volunteers
Nils Beckmann, former volunteer of Action Reconciliation Service for Peace
Benjamin Fischer, volunteer at the Central Welfare Organization of Jews in Germany

Workshop, May 9 – 09:
German-Israeli Volunteer Service – A New Service is Presented
Dr. Ralf-René Weingärtner, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
Laura Cazés, Central Welfare Organization of Jews in Germany

Workshop, May 9 – 10:
Generations in Dialogue – Voluntary Engagement in Germany and Israel
Dr. Jochen Palenker, Central Council of Jews in Germany
Rinat Avigur, former volunteer of Kom-Mit-Nadev

- 07:15 pm** Transport to conference center “Jerusalem Church”
- 07:30 pm** Dinner break
- 08:30 pm** Reflecting on the day – meeting in bilateral encounter groups

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2015

What Makes up Our Lives in Israel and Germany?
Discussing the Present in Dialogue

09:00 am Parallel panel discussions in three forums

Forum 1: Creating and Forming Society
Engagement, volunteering and living democracy: What are we contributing to shaping multicultural and tolerant societies in Germany and Israel?

Panel discussion with
Stephan Groschwitz, German Federal Youth Council
Naftali Dery, Council of Youth Movements in Israel
Aycan Demirel, Kreuzberg Initiative Against Anti-Semitism
Toni Nasser, Hanoar Haoved Vehalomed, Israel
Sarah Singer, Jewish National Fund, Germany

Moderation: Dirk Thesenvitz, Protestant Youth in Germany

Forum 2: Understanding Diverse Life Realities
Everyday challenges in the Middle East and Europe, international mobility, social media worlds and globalization as a reality of life: How are we dealing with comparable and differing realities of life in Israel and Germany?

Panel discussion with
Ariella Gill, Israel Youth Exchange Authority
Salwa Abu Kashef, Bedouin City Rahat – South Israel
Nirit Bialer, Habait – Platform for Israeli Culture in Berlin
Arne Lietz, Member of the European Parliament

Moderation: Bernhard Krane, Educator, Berlin

Forum 3: Living with History
Discovering and facing the presence of the past, discussing the present significance of the history of National Socialism across the involved generations and continuing commemorating the Shoah together – how are we coping with the shared history which connects us today?

Panel discussion with
Dr. Meron Mendel, Anne Frank Educational Center, Frankfurt
Dr. Peter Fischer, AMCHA Germany
Uriel Kashi, Educator, Israel
Martin Schellenberg, Memorial and Museum Sachsenhausen
Moderation: Jutta Weduwen, Action Reconciliation Service for Peace

11:00 am Coffee break

11:30 am Workshops – Presentation of Youth Projects Focusing on the Topics of the Forums

Forum 1: Creating and Forming Society
Engagement, volunteering and living democracy: What are we contributing to shaping multicultural and tolerant societies in Germany and Israel?

- Workshop, May 10 – 01:**
Greening German-Israeli Relations: Green X-Change – The Young Leadership Project of KKL – Jewish National Fund
Ricarda Konwiarz, Jewish National Fund
Sebastian Kreuz, Jewish National Fund
- Workshop, May 10 – 02:**
Youth Engagement in Political and Societal Discourses – Presenting Projects of the Israeli and German Youth Councils
Shlomit Ronen-Livne, Council of Youth Movements in Israel
Stephan Groschwitz, German Federal Youth Council
- Workshop, May 10 – 03:**
Facing Anti-Semitism and Israel-Related Hostility in Germany – A Project with Youth of Turkish and Arab Origin
Malte Holler, Kreuzberg Initiative Against Anti-Semitism
Aycan Demirel, Kreuzberg Initiative Against Anti-Semitism
- Workshop, May 10 – 04:**
Against Discrimination and Xenophobia – Sport as a Framework of Quality Time for Youngsters
Carina Weber, German Sports Youth

Forum 2: Understanding Diverse Life Realities
Everyday challenges in the Middle East and Europe, international mobility, social media worlds and globalization as a reality of life: How are we dealing with comparable and differing life realities in Israel and Germany?

- Workshop, May 10 – 05:**
Young Ambassadors at the Service of Understanding Differences and Similarities in Their Dynamic Cultures
Marlies Denter, Municipality of Frankfurt
Hadas Kaplan, Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo
... and the young ambassadors

- Workshop, May 10 – 06:**
“Happy Holocaust Day!” – Deconstructing a German-Israeli Youth Encounter
Renate Krekeler-Koch, Ludwig-Wolker-Haus, Germany
Danielle-Natalie Kind, Inspiration – Arts of Humanity, Israel
... and the young actors

- Workshop, May 10 – 07:**
“Spotlight on... 50 Years Israel & Germany” – A Youth Expedition through the Past, Present and Future of Diverse Relations
Christin Henke, ConAct
Nitzan Chelouche, former Kom-Mit-Nadev volunteer
... and the young filmmakers

Forum 3: Living with History
Discovering and facing the presence of the past, discussing the present significance of the history of National Socialism with the involved generations and continuing to commemorate the Shoah together: How are we coping with the shared history which connects us today?

- Workshop, May 10 – 08:**
Standing up for Encounters and Democratic Values – Honoring the Heritage of Israel Szabo
Dr. Hannelore Chiout, Berlin
Edna Saretzky, Haifa

- Workshop, May 10 – 09:**
Family-Oriented Biographical Work as Part of Israeli-German Encounters?
Aline Seel, Action Reconciliation Service for Peace

- Workshop, May 10 – 10:**
Exchange-Your-Vision: 60 Years of German-Israeli Youth Exchange as Part of German-Israeli Relations
Jonas M. Hahn, ConAct
Moran Goren, Municipality of Jerusalem

01:00 pm Lunch break

02:00 pm **Living with History in Germany – Historical Expeditions,
Discovery Tours and Talks on Nazi History and the Shoah in Berlin**

Options to choose from:

- Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe
- Topography of Terror Documentation Center
- The German Resistance Memorial Center
- House of the Wannsee Conference, Memorial and Educational Site
- The Anne Frank Center Berlin
- Jewish Museum Berlin
- Exhibition Ground 7xyoung –
Your Training Ground for Solidarity and Respect
- Memorial Site Silent Heroes

06:00 pm **Reflecting on the day – meeting in bilateral encounter groups**

07:00 pm Dinner break

08:00 pm **The Whole World of Encounters... German-Israeli Exchange on Stage**

Greeting by Bettina Bundszus-Cecere, General Director of the Department
Children and Youth, German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior
Citizens, Women and Youth

MUSIC FOR EXCHANGE

Leo Kestenberg Music School and Conservatory Givatayim

**THE KNOT – A Short Film Developed During the Project “SPOTLIGHT
ON... 50 YEARS ISRAEL & GERMANY”**

ConAct, Israel Youth Exchange Authority and young filmmakers

TOHUWABOHU – A German-Israeli Play

Project “Translating Tracks into Life”

Ludwig Wolker Haus e.V. and Tzofim – Israeli Scouts

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015

**What Are Our Visions for the Future?
Creating Statements and Visible Outcomes...**

09:00 am **Method-Oriented Workshops to Prepare a Presentation
for the Afternoon**

Workshop, May11 – 01:

Theater Workshop

Danielle-Natalie Kind, Inspiration – Arts of Humanity, Israel
Andreas Wrosch, Germany

Workshop, May 11 – 02:

Dance Workshop

Stephanie Trogisch, No Limit – Dance Workshops Berlin e.V.

Workshop, May 11 – 03:

Creative Writing Workshop

Nava Semel, Author, Israel

Workshop, May11 – 04:

Graffiti Art Workshop

Sascha Kittel, Graffiti Club, Leipzig

Workshop, May 11 – 05:

Circus Workshop

Theresa Rossenbach, Circus Cabuwazi, Berlin

Workshop, May 11 – 06:

Think Tank “Living with History” – Conclude Positions and Suggestions

Christin Henke, ConAct

Workshop, May 11 – 07:

Think Tank “Creating and Forming Society” –

Conclude Positions and Suggestions

Jonas M. Hahn, ConAct

Workshop, May 11 – 08:**Project Workshop – Creating a Future Project for Youth Exchange and Encounters**

Tanja Berg, Educator of the youth exchange project Tel Aviv – Berlin-Pankow
 Rotem Caro Weizmann, former Kom-Mit-Nadev volunteer

Workshop, May 11 – 09:**The “Raving Reporters” – German-Israeli Youth Media Group**

Jonathan Ponchon, Press Network for Topics on Youth, Germany
 Ido Fruchter, Municipality Rishon LeZion

- 01:00 pm** Lunch break
- 02:00 pm** Continuation of the workshops
- 03:00 pm** Coffee break
- 03:30 pm** **Our Wishes – Our Concerns – Our Suggestions:
 Envisioning Israeli-German Relations and Encounters
 for the Next 50 Years**
- Final plenum session closing the youth congress
- Presenting the results of the congress to Manuela Schwesig**, German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and distinguished guests from politics, society and the field of German-Israeli relations
- 06:00 pm** **Concluding experiences and insights –
 meeting in bilateral encounter groups**
- 07:00 pm** Dinner break
- 08:00 pm** Transfer to Arena Berlin – Glashaus
 Eichenstraße 4, 12435 Berlin
www.arena.berlin/veranstaltungsart/glashaus/
- 09:00 pm** **German-Israeli Farewell Party and Concert**
 Starring “The Apples” (Israel) featuring Jessie Evans

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

Departure of Israeli and German participants

PROGRAM PART 2

NOVEMBER 16-20, 2015, NEVE ILAN/ISRAEL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Arriving in Israel...

- Arrival and check-in at
 Hotel Neve Ilan, Neve Ilan 90850
www.c-hotels.co.il/en/?page_id=2266
- 07:00 pm** Dinner at Hotel Neve Ilan
- 08:00 pm** **Welcome to the German-Israeli Youth Congress**
- Opening ceremony with
- Ariella Gill**, Israel Youth Exchange Authority
Christine Mähler, ConAct
Dr. Clemens von Goetze, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of Israel
Opher Aviran, Ambassador and Coordinator for German Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel
- Lecture and discussion with **Nadav Eyal**, Journalist
- 09:00 pm** **Getting to Know One Another Again**
 Meeting in bilateral encounter groups

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Understanding Diverse Life Realities...

- 07:00 am** Breakfast
- 08:00 am** Challenges of living in diverse societies in Israel and Germany –
 meeting in bilateral encounter groups
- 10:30 am** Boarding the buses and driving to Jerusalem
- 11:00 am** **Guided Tours through Jerusalem in Bilateral Groups**

- 01:00 pm** Lunch break
- 04:30 pm** **The Israeli Parliament – Knesset**
- 06:00 pm** **Challenges of Living in a Diverse Israeli Society**
Meeting with Hilik Bar, Member and Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Secretary General of the Labor Party
- 07:00 pm** Boarding the buses and driving to Neve Ilan
- 08:00 pm** Dinner break

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Living with History...

- 07:00 am** Breakfast
- 08:00 am** Boarding the buses and driving to Yad Vashem
- 09:00 am** **Facing History**
Guided Tours through Yad Vashem in Bilateral Groups
- 01:00 pm** Lunch break
- 02:30 pm** **Listening to Authentic Voices**
Continuing the tours and meeting with Holocaust survivors
- 04:00 pm** Break
- 04:30 pm** **Commemorating the Shoah – How Does History Affect Us Today?**
Meeting in bilateral encounter groups
- 05:30 pm** **Commemorating the Shoah**
Commemoration ceremony at Yad Vashem
Bettina Bundszus-Cecere, General Director of the Department Children and Youth, German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
Dalit Atrakchi, Ph.D., Acting Director, Senior Division of External Relations and UNESCO Ministry of Education, Secretary General of the Israeli Commission for UNESCO

- 06:30 pm** Boarding the buses and driving to Rabin Guest House
- 07:00 pm** Dinner break
- 08:30 pm** Returning to Hotel Neve Ilan – transfer by bus from Jerusalem

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Forming Society – Creating Future...

- 07:30 am** Breakfast
- 08:30 am** Re-grouping
- 09:00 am** **German-Israeli Youth Exchange – Past, Present and Future**
Panel discussion with
Prof. Izhak Schnell, Tel Aviv University
Dr. Nili Keren, Kibbutzim Academic College Tel Aviv
Yariv Lapid, Lohamei Haghetat Museum
Yossi Gilad, former Kom-Mit-Nadev volunteer
Moderation: Yoni Ayalon, Ph.D., Tel Aviv University
- 10:30 am** Coffee break
- 11:00 am** **Looking Ahead and Planning Future Projects**
Meeting in bilateral encounter groups
- 12:30 pm** Lunch break
- 01:30 pm** Driving to Tel Aviv according to choice of tours
- 02:30 pm** **Living in a Pluralistic Society Today – Insights into Urban Life**
Guided tours in Tel Aviv
- 06:30 pm** Returning to Neve Ilan
- 08:30 pm** **Closing the German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015**
Dinner and farewell party

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015

Departure of Israeli and German participants

PARTICIPATING AND CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Action Reconciliation Service for Peace
- AMCHA Germany
- Anne Frank Educational Center Frankfurt
- AWO Niederrhein
- Bavarian Youth Council
- Central Welfare Organization of Jews in Germany
- Christian Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association
- Circus Cabuwazi
- City Rahat – South Israel
- ConAct – Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange
- Conservatory Givatayim
- Council of Youth Movements in Israel
- Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future
- Friends of the Education of Rudolf Steiner
- German Federal Youth Council
- German-Israeli Society – Young Forum
- German Sports Youth
- Graffiti Club Leipzig
- Hanoar Halomed Vehalomed
- Hashomer Hatzair
- House of the Wannsee Conference
- Institute New Impulses, Berlin
- Israeli-German Society – Young Forum
- Israel Volunteer Association
- Israel Youth Exchange Authority
- Jewish National Fund
- Kreuzberg Initiative Against Anti-Semitism
- Ludwig Wolker House Berlin
- Maccabi Israel
- Memorial and Museum Sachsenhausen
- Metukenet
- Municipality Frankfurt/Main
- Municipality Hamburg
- Municipality of Jerusalem
- Municipality Rishon LeZion
- Municipality Tel Aviv-Yafo
- Music School Leo Kestenberg
- No Limit – Dance Workshops Berlin e.V.
- Press Network for Topics on Youth
- Protestant Youth in Germany
- Socialist Youth Movement Germany – Die Falken
- Tzofim Israeli Scouts
- Zedakah e.V.



The German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 was realized through the engagement of all participating organizations and their motivated professional and voluntary staff. We are grateful for all contributions of ideas and support that made this youth congress possible.

Thank you! – Toda! – Shukran! – Danke!

The German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015 is a cooperation project of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, ConAct – Coordination Center German Israeli Youth Exchange, and the Israel Youth Exchange Authority.

The German-Israeli Youth Congress 2015, as well as a multitude of further conceptual work in preparation of the congress, was funded by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. We thank the German-Israeli Society and the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future for their additional funding.

