

Towards the Future of German-Israeli Youth Exchange ...

German-Israeli Youth Conference

in the Process of Founding a German-Israeli Youth Office

November 10 – 13, 2019 in Berlin



The participants of the Youth Conference worked in small groups called “Topic Labs”. Each Topic Lab was designated to a different topic in the context of German-Israeli Youth Exchange and participants could choose their preferred topics in advance. In their Topic Labs, the participants researched and explored the topic and its meaning, they took part in visits, tours and meetings regarding the topic all over Berlin, and designed ideas, wishes and inputs about the topic for future German-Israeli youth contacts.

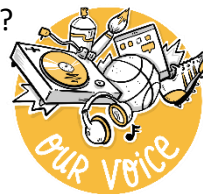
Here are the Topic Labs, the German-Israeli teams of group leaders who led them and the activities they have performed throughout the Youth Conference:

Topic Labs

1. OUR VOICE: Youth Culture

**music *art *sports *lifestyle *drugs and addiction *nightlife *hangouts *religion*

- What cultural aspects (music, art, books, influencers, movies, celebrities ...) affect me the most in my everyday life?
- How would I describe the main aspects of youth culture in the country I live in and in my society to somebody from Israel / Germany?
- Which aspects of youth culture are included in programs of German-Israeli exchanges and which ones should be more integrated? How?



Group Leader/s:

Peter Wissmann & Bar Cohen

Research Highlights:

- Tour with the Ghetostreber – young people in the district of Wedding, through main points in their everyday lives (<http://www.jugendtouren-berlin.de/wedding/touren-route-65/ghettostreber-on-tour.html>)
- Visit to the Sports and Youth Centers “Kolle 8” and “Königsstadt” (<https://www.sic-prenzlauerberg.de/> ; <http://www.jugendhaus-koenigstadt.de/>)

2. UP IN A CLOUD: Digital Life

**digitalization *communication *digital sphere *social media *online *apps *instagramable*

- What are my main means of communication? Where do I consume most of my content?
- How does the use of different forms of media affect young people in the country and society I live in?
- What role can the digital sphere play in German-Israeli encounters? What are the opportunities and challenges in applying different media to exchange programs?

Group Leader/s:

Rebecca Görmann & Lior Zyser-Yogev



Research Highlights:

- Tour to the Museum of Communication – the exhibition “Like You! Friendship – Digital and Analogue” (<https://www.mfk-berlin.de/en/exhibition-friendship/>)

3. WHERE TO NEXT: Daily Life & Future Perspectives

**career *career choices *work-life balance *future plans *routine *opportunities *life choices*

- What are my wishes, dreams and fears, when thinking about my future? Do they match my current daily life?
- Which opportunities and challenges (regarding study opportunities, career, jobs, self-employment etc.) exist for young people in the country I live in?
- To which extent do young people in Germany and Israel share the same perspectives and opportunities for their future? Where do they differ?

Group Leader/s:

Orly Gershuny & Guy Band



Research Highlights:

- *Multiple concepts of long distance* – Talk with an Israeli and a German who are in partnerships with people from the other country
- Visit to the Headquarters of the German Trade Union Youth and meeting with its representative, Matthias Schröder (https://jugend.dgb.de/dgb_jugend/ueber-uns/wer-wir-sind/++co++5ff01d14-c61e-11e3-bffd-525400808b5c)

4. THE PEOPLE DEMANDS: Social Justice

**equal opportunities *social mobility *discrimination *social struggles *pay gap *inequality *injustice*

- Where do I experience or observe social injustice in my daily life? How does it manifest?
- What are the main social issues in my country? What groups do I feel are ignored / underprivileged / mistreated / discriminated?
- Do Israel and Germany share issues of social justice? How can young people in the two countries influence these issues?

Group Leader/s:

Eli Wimpfheimer & Falko Kliewe



Research Highlights:

- Meeting with Hannah Reichardt, Member of the Board of Jusos – The Union of Young Socialists in the Social Democratic Party (SPD)
(<https://www.jusos.de/content/uploads/2019/10/Kandidatur-Hanna-Reichardt-1.pdf>)
- Tour with Dieter Bichler, a homeless person, through the commercial streets of Berlin
(<https://querstadtein.org/tour/obdachlos-auf-schicken-strassen/>)

5. SHE/HE/THEM/WE: Gender Identities

**gender diversity *individual freedoms *self-expression *gender equality *LGBTQI *sexism *feminism*

- What role do the concepts of “gender” and “gender identity” play in my everyday life?
- How are topics such as gender diversity, individual freedoms of sexual expression and sex education discussed in the country I live in, in my society?
- How should programs of German-Israeli youth exchange deal with topics of gender diversity? What role do international encounters play in the perception of gender-related concepts?

Group Leader/s:

Ariel Ben Shanan & Nora Meduri



Research Highlights:

- Meeting with Adrian Lehne, PhD Student and co-founder of Queertausch – a Group for LGBTQ* alumni and volunteers within the exchange organization AFS Intercultural Exchanges
(<https://www.afs.de/queertausch>)
- Visit to the Schwules Museum Berlin and a tour through the exhibition „Love at First Fight – Queer Movements in Germany since Stonewall“
(<https://www.schwulesmuseum.de/ausstellung/love-at-first-fight-queere-bewegungsgeschichten-aus-deutschland-seit-stonewall/?lang=en>)

6. OUR PLANET – OUR MISSION: The Climate Crisis

**ecology *environment *global warming *climate change *crisis *Fridays for Future*

- In which way is the current climate crisis relevant to my daily life? What role does it play?
- How are the threats of climate change discussed within my society? Which initiatives are there in my country, dealing with the current climate crisis?
- In which way do environmental topics belong to exchanges of young people between Israel and Germany? How can German-Israeli exchanges influence trends in this context?



Group Leader/s:

Jonas Hahn & Mara List-Avner

Research Highlights:

- Meeting with Johannes Kagerer, Spokesperson of “greenXchange” and one of the initiators of the “German-Israeli Sustainability Dialogue” (www.greenxchange.de)
- Visit to “TEXTILHAFEN” in Pankow, a project engaged in “upcycling” second-hand clothes (<https://www.berliner-stadtmission.de/komm-und-sieh/kleiderspenden/kleiderspenden/textilhafen>)
- Skype call with Ya’ara Peretz, Head of Government Relations and Policy of Green Course (Megama Yeruka), grassroots activist organization in Israel for sustainable environmental and social policies (<https://www.green.org.il/en/mission/>)

7. A PERFECT MISHMASH: Diverse Societies

**diversity *migration-based societies *multiple narratives *multiculturalism *intercultural relations *ethnic groups *cultural minorities*

- How do I experience multiculturalism in my everyday life?
- What role does the existence of multiple ethnicities / origins / languages / religions / cultures / narratives play in the society I live in?
- What are the differences between Germany and Israel in dealing with the multiple narratives within the society? What can the countries learn from one another?



Group Leader/s:

Ilira Aliai & Eytan Bortnik

Research Highlights:

- Visit to “REFUGIO Berlin” and a workshop with a former refugee from Syria (<https://www.refugio.berlin/>)
- Guided tour through Neukölln by the districts commissioner of integration, Jens Rockstedt (<https://www.berlin.de/ba-neukoelln/politik-und-verwaltung/beauftragte/integration/>)

8. READY-SET-GIVE: Social Engagement

**political participation *political activism *strengthening democracy *democratic values *volunteering
*youth leadership *civic service *youth initiatives*

- Am I politically / socially active within my society? How?
- What are the most common forms of social engagement of young people in my society (youth organizations, volunteering, military / civic service, protests etc.)?
- How can participation in German-Israeli exchange programs generate social engagement among young people?



Group Leader/s:

Dor Posner & Ella Enzmann

Research Highlights:

- Visit to the headquarters of the VCP-scouts troop Kreuzberg “Freddy Hirsch” and talk to Simon Dürsch, the leader of the troop (<https://www.facebook.com/vcpxberg>)
- Visit to the volunteer project “Circus Schatzinsel” and talk with Adriana, a volunteer from Poland through the European Solidarity Corps with the organization IJGD Berlin

9. PAST MEETS PRESENT: Facing Shared History

**German-Jewish history *holocaust *Shoa *National Socialism *German-Israeli relations
*commemoration *remembrance *collective responsibility *antisemitism*

- In which situations / places / occasions do I experience a connection between the history of my country, of my people, and my life today?
- How does history affect the society I live in today? Is there a unique relation to the Jewish history in Germany, in my society?
- Which role does the shared past of Germany and Israel / the Jewish people play in German-Israeli exchanges today? How should it be dealt with in exchanges between young people from the two countries?



Group Leader/s:

Bettina Pinzl & Rotem Lipstein

Research Highlights:

- Visit to the Topography of Terror Documentation Center and meeting with Dr. Thomas Lutz, head of the pedagogical department (<https://www.topographie.de/en/topography-of-terror/>)
- „Berlin as Memorial Landscape“ – Tour through memorials for different groups of victims in the Second World War (<https://www.stiftung-denkmal.de/besuch/angebote-fuer-besucher/stadtpaziergang.html>)

10. OPEN-CLOSED-OPEN: Globalization vs. Nationalization

**human rights *civil rights *citizenship *mobility opportunities *borders *migration *populism *nation state *labor-based migration *free movement *refugees *European Union *Middle East*

- How do I define my collective belonging: To a state? To a nation? To a society, community, group, city, family, social circle, the international community?
- What trends am I recognizing in my society – focus on national interests and closing of borders or ambitions to be a part of an international community and openness to the world?
- In which way do young people in Germany and Israel share a perception of their collective identity? In which way do they differ? How do these issues affect exchanges between young people from the two countries?

Group Leader/s:

Tamar Dekel & Niclas Cares



Research Highlights:

- Visit to the Europe House in Berlin for a tour through the exhibition “Experience Europe”, and talk with Silvan Wagenknecht, the founder of the pro-European organization “Pulse of Europe” (<https://pulseofeurope.eu/en/>)
- Meeting with Helena Nepp, project manager in the “European Youth Parliament” (<https://eyp.org/>)
- Skype call with Rachel Hadad, about the Environmental Forum team for regional cooperation in the Middle East