

Volunteering in Israel – Volunteering for Germany?

Background

In the year 2015 Germany and Israel will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Young people, volunteering in both countries, contributed in different ways to development of these bilateral relations.

Since almost 60 years, young people from Germany volunteer in Israel in a great variety of projects: They work in agriculture, in Museums or commemoration sites and mostly they work in social projects, supporting elderly people – among them often Holocaust Survivors - supporting handicapped people, youngsters, children and other groups of the Israeli population who need help and receive support by Israeli civic projects. The motivation for these services often relates to the past, the persecution of Jews in Germany and Europe, and includes the wish to contribute to a prospering Israeli civil society in the present, located in the politically complicated area of the Middle East.

Since five years a group of Israeli volunteers comes to Germany with the program of Kom-Mit-Nadev. The idea is to offer young Israelis the chance to live and experience everyday life in Germany, to become a part of discourses and routines of civil society in Germany and thus to support processes of getting to know and learning from one another in a deeper sense. The Israeli volunteers work in projects of social welfare, with youngsters and children, in community centers, universities, museums and commemoration sites. Most of the projects are by intent not connected to Jewish life in Germany, but to German civil society in its great variety.

The idea of this seminar is to bring together Israeli volunteers, who presently do their service in Germany, with German volunteers who have shortly come back from their volunteer service in Israel – in order to start a networking process:

Questions to discuss

- **What are significant experiences you have been making while volunteering in Israel or Germany?**
- **What was fruitful, enriching, interesting? What was difficult, disturbing, challenging?**
- **Where do you see similarities and what are major differences in experiences?**

- **How can we contribute in Germany and Israel in order to make volunteer services and these long-term visits even more fruitful and valuable?**
- **How do the volunteer services in both countries serve the bilateral German-Israeli relations and are there ideas for improving and deepening these relations?**

Friday, February 20th, 2015

- 4.00 pm ***Welcome & coffee*** - Jugendhotel
- 4.30 - 5.30 pm ***Getting to know one another***
- 5.30 - 7.30 pm ***Exchange of Experiences –
Volunteer Services in Israel and Germany***
Workshop with Jana Jelitzky, Berlin
- 7.30 - 8.30 pm Dinner - Jugendhotel
- 8.30 pm "Night out in Berlin"

Saturday, February 21st, 2015

- 9.00 - 12.00 pm ***7 x young –
Your training ground for solidarity and respect in Berlin:
7 art installations on young people's experiences
under the Nazis***
Visit of the exhibition and workshops
- 12.00-12.30 pm Return to Hostel
- 12.30 - 2.00 pm Lunch - Jugendhotel
- 2.00 - 4.00 pm ***1965–2015 –
50 years of German-Israeli diplomatic relations/60 years of
German-Israeli youth contacts***
Workshop with Jonas M. Hahn, ConAct

- 4.00 - 4.30 pm Coffee & Break - Jugendhotel
- 4.30 - 6.00 pm ***Future Perspectives?
Ideas and visions for networking in German-Israeli volunteer
services and youth contacts***
- 6.00 - 6.30 pm Coffee & Break - Jugendhotel
- 6.30 - 7.30 pm Preparing a shared evening – culture & games
- 8.00 pm Dinner

Sunday, February 22nd, 2015

- 9.00 - 11.00 am ***If I could make a change, I would...
German-Israeli relations – discourses and open questions***
- Discussion with Guests:
Nirit Bialer, Founder of the Cultural Project 'HaBait' in Berlin
Lukas Welz, Head of AMCHA Germany
- Moderation: Bernhard Krane, Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste
- 11.00 - 11.30 am Coffee & Break - Jugendhotel
- 11.30 - 12.30 am Closing Circle & Seminar Evaluation
End of the seminar - Lunch - Jugendhotel



תכנית התנדבות ישראלית-גרמנית
קום-סתנדב

Kom-Mit-Nadev
Deutsch-Israelisches Freiwilligenprogramm

Program coordination

Jonas M. Hahn and Hannelore Bergholz

Tel: 03491 – 420260

info@ConAct-org.de

Seminar guides

Rinat Avigur, Israel

Kathrin Ziemens, Israel

Registration for German participants until January 28, 2015

ConAct – Koordinierungszentrum Deutsch-Israelischer Jugendaustausch

Altes Rathaus – Markt 26 | 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Tel. 03491 – 420260 Fax: 03491 – 420270

info@ConAct-org.de

Participation fee for German participants:

30,- € (to be paid at the seminar)

Transportation costs can be reimbursed after the seminar (according to train tickets, 2nd class).

**This seminar is funded by the German Federal Ministry
for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**



Bundesministerium
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und Jugend

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