



Projects in 2019 preparing the foundation of a German-Israeli Youth Office

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

Bilateral conference for exchange organizations – foundation of a German-Israeli Youth Office

June 4-6, 2019 in Berlin

(Time frame for Israeli participants, including travel days, June 3-7, 2019)

(draft)

Organized programs for encounters between young people from Germany and Israel exist for more than 60 years. A vast number of organizations are realizing hundreds of exchange programs each year, in the field of youth exchange, student exchange as well as through voluntary services. As many as 10,000 young people visit the respective other country annually and get to know its people, culture, history and everyday life. They become young ambassadors that will report about the latest insights in both societies and contribute to a mutual understanding. This way they uphold German-Israeli relations for the future.

In October 2018 the German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Dr. Franziska Giffey and the Israeli Minister of Education Naftali Bennett agreed on the foundation of a German-Israel Youth Office. The relations between young people in Germany and Israel shall become even closer, deeper and more numerous.

“We have agreed to found a German-Israeli Youth Office, because we are convinced that history is also a mission for the future. More than half a century after the Holocaust, we want to lay the foundation for passing on knowledge from generation to generation. It is important that young people in Germany and Israel develop a common, realistic picture of the past and the present. Only then will it be possible to shape the future together.” (Dr. Franziska Giffey, Press release, Federal German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, October 4, 2018)

A German-Israeli conference will now invite key players and organizations of German-Israeli youth exchange programs from both countries to gather and discuss topics, structures and objectives which shall play an important role by establishing the Future German-Israeli Youth Office. By using the method of Open Space Technology (OST) ideas and wishes of all participants will be gathered to create the agenda and put subjects forward for discussion. Experts and professionals of exchange work will deliberate on the results with regard to the future practice of youth exchange.

Program

June 3, 2019 Arrival

Arrival from Israel

June 4, 2019 Approaching German-Israeli Youth Relations

12:00 a.m. Arrival from Germany & lunch

2:00 p.m. Welcome
Caren Marks, German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth
Embassy of the State of Israel (requested)

2:30 p.m. **Spotlights on existing exchange programs and formats**
Short movies – presentations – reports – pictures – quotes
on youth exchange, student exchange and voluntary services
by chosen organizations
- Plenum session -

4:00 p.m. Coffee break

4:30 p.m. **Getting to know in small groups**

6:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Evening program (optional)

June 5, 2019 Discussing the Future – Open Space Technology

9:00 a.m. **Introduction to the method**
Gathering and grouping issues to discuss

10:30 a.m. Coffee break

11:00 a.m. **Open space discussions in small groups, part I**

1:00 p.m. Lunch break

- 3:00 p.m. **Open space discussions in small groups, part II**
- 5:00 p.m. **“Opportunity Fair” – encounters and open discussions**
 Open to the public – guests from the spheres of politics, education and exchange are welcome
Official Opening of the Opportunity fair
- Presentation of German-Israeli exchange work by participating organizations at information desks
 - Possibility to receive further information about the results of other open space discussions – poster presentation
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner for participants and additional guests of the opportunity fair -
 Transition to a cultural evening program

June 6, 2019 **Discussing Core Ideas for the Future**

- 9:00 a.m. **Presentation of core topics and results of the Open Space**
 by moderators and chosen participants
 - *Plenum Session* -
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee break
- 11:00 a.m. **“Discussing the Future” –**
Panel & Audience – Discussion with representatives of exchange work and funding structures
 - *Plenum Session* -
- 12.30 p.m. **Observations from the conference**
- 1:00 p.m. End of the conference
 Departure of German participants
- Afternoon Possible Departure of Israeli Participants

June 7, 2019 **Departure**

Departure to Israel

INFORMATION

Conference venue and lodging

H4 Hotels

Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 32a | 19178 Berlin, Germany

Fon: +49 30 2408801-0 | Fax: +49 30 2408801-550 | www.H-Hotels.com

Language

Simultaneous translation (German/Hebrew) will be provided in plenum sessions.

The workshops will be held in English.

Conditions for participation

The conference addresses professionals and group leaders of German-Israeli Youth and professional exchange projects in Germany and Israel, as well as representatives of school exchange and German-Israeli volunteer services.

Israeli participants receive flight cost subsidies of € 280.00. The flight will be reserved by the inviting organizations.

Lodging, conference program and cultural program are included.

Application for Israeli participants

Israel Youth Exchange Authority

Tel. 00972-3-6969390 Ariella@youthex.co.il

The invitation to the Conference is expressed by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

The Conference is implemented by:

ConAct – Coordination Center for German-Israeli Youth Exchange 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 administers the funding of German-Israeli youth exchange, supports and qualifies German-Israeli exchange partnerships and advances German-Israeli youth contacts. ConAct is formally connected to the Protestant Academy of Saxony-Anhalt in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, yet as a state institution it is not being 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 (formerly Israel Youth Exchange Council) is the coordinating office of International Youth Relations in Israel and the respective partner organization of ConAct. It is working with support of the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(as of March, 2019)