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What was man's role in the past, what is it in the present and future?



Are women still bound to cooking pots, children, household, religion?
Are roles changing?



It is not usual to make a project with Germans, Israelis and Palestinians. Although young people might not be able to change the course of history, we tried to bring at least 12 from each culture together to work on a human right, which has significant importance for all participants. It took a long time until we had the partners and the program together, we had disappointments, cancellations and obstacles on our way to a meeting between human beings.

The main organizations didn't lose hope and dared the meeting. Despite warnings it worked: It became clear to the participants that young people are willing and able to work together, even if there are long-living enemy images, stereotypes, prejudice and fundamental conflicts between them. When the Palestinians and Israelis arrived in Germany, they wanted to talk about "the conflict", but soon they realized that this would have been a one-way-street. We first talked and worked about basic elements of our project and team building processes until we got to "the conflict". Soon after the end of the project another round of violence broke out in Gaza and everything we had learned was at stake. On Facebook Palestinians and Israelis posted messages with pictures and films, demonstrating their side of this outbreak without insulting each other personally. It was a kind of test. Many personal contacts between the project members are still working, but the Middle East conflict is still going on.

Reading instructions:

Blue boxes: Topics/Interviews etc. with direct reference to the project.

Green Boxes: Own commentary

Yellow Boxes: Information (historical, further information)

Grey Boxes: Subtitles for photos, sketches, cartoons, diagrams.

The photos and texts are taken from the participants, exceptions are indicated.

This publication does not represent an expression of opinion by the Foundation EVZ. The authors bear responsibility for the content.

A human rights project,
in Germany mainly
sponsored by the foundation

"Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft"
(Remembrance, Responsibility and Future)
within the program

EUROPEANS FOR PEACE

Oberwesel, Kastellaun (Aug. 5 -17, 2012)

Beit Jala (Talitha Kumi), Matnas Negev (Sept. 27- Oct. 11, 2012)

Organizations:

Germany: Förderkreis Synagoge Laufersweiler
(Responsible for the project and the publications: Christof Pies), I Hope
Israel: Matnas Ramat Negev, Palestine: Beit Al Liqua

Special thanks to further sponsors:

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contributions of participants.

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HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| January 2012 | Application for the project at the EVZ by Förderkreis | After the meeting: cancellation of another partner in Palestine because of political reasons, approval of new partners by the foundation EVZ |
| March | Cancellation of one Israeli and one Palestinian partner | |
| April | New Partner Israel: Matnas Ramat Negev | June New partner: Beit Al Liqva, Beit Jala |
| April | Approval by EVZ | August 5-17 Meeting in Oberwesel and Kastellaun, Germany |
| May 20-24 Wannsee | Meeting in Berlin, Preparatory Seminar | Sept. 27- Oct. 11 Second meeting in Israel and Palestine |



Under an old 250-year-old protected oak tree next to the Jewish cemetery in Laufersweiler (Hunsrück). Lots of smiling faces and nearly all are present.

Germans: Jakob Nehls, Felix Hill, Jonas Trzcensky, Till Bästlein, Elena Etges, Alexandra Bogdasarow, Theresa Volk, Marie Wagner, Carolin Manns, Melanie Karsten, Melanie Christ, Lukas Linder, Christof Pies, Ulli Suppus. Missing: Jan Schneider, Andrea Günster-Wagner, Christa Wendling

Israelis: Amit Harel, Eynat Goldmann, Ofri Lazier, Omer Meir, Hila Peleg, Tal Arbel, Amit Spector, Yam Seaon, Noam Vider, Tamar Novoplansky, Nis Rubin, Tal Pacht

Palestinians: Christine Amro, Marian Amro, Dina Alaraj, Adel Istefan, Hanna Khair, Isel Badra, Ameer Abu Mohor, Tamer Zreineh, John Bader, Nicola Shaer, Dima Al Mukarker, Amera Amar, Barbara Barham, Johnny Shawan

Women at the cooking pot and men into war? Basic rules and useful tips for participants of the project



1. We treat each other with respect and tolerance. We stick to conversation rules, which are set up on the first day.
2. Rooms are mixed with Germans, Israelis, Palestinians. We have three-bedded and four-bedded rooms. The Germans also stay with the whole group in the second week. In the morning they are taken to their schools by our busses.
3. In Kastellaun: We have an own cook, who cooks vegetarian and can fulfill special wishes.
Each room is on duty for the meals (laying and cleaning the table etc.) on one day. We stick to the meal times and eat together!!!
4. German laws apply for all the participants (e.g. smoking, alcohol, drugs etc.). There might be additional arrangements for each group by their leaders.
5. Cultural Evening: Each group should prepare an evening about its home culture: Facts, music, posters, dancing...
Media are allowed (flipchart, transparencies, power point....). Songs and dances can be prepared for the welcome party and the cultural evenings.
6. Private notebooks, digital cameras, video cameras, mobile phones can be brought to Germany and used for the project purposes. Special regulations can be asked at the customs control.
Mobile phones, notebooks, I-pads etc. stay in the rooms and will not be used for private chats, phone calls, games etc. during working sessions. Dictionaries or electronic devices for translations, however, can be used.
7. Gila Manevich (Israel) will prepare a facebook platform for the project, where all the participants can get into personal contact before the start of the project.
9. Bring suitable clothing (It's summer in Germany, but it might rain and be cold!!). Bring sports and swimming clothing, closed shoes for hiking, umbrella. Dictionaries (Arab-Hebrew-German) or similar electronic devices are very useful.
10. Useful tips: Time difference (-1 hour), passport, hairdrier, vaccination pass, tell your leader if you suffer from an illness, 1 Euro = 100 Eurocent, 1 € = about 5 NIS, Credit cards are accepted (ask your leaders about other money cards), Sunday = German holiday, Language: German, nearly all youngsters speak English.
11. Be careful: On your flight back home there are other rules concerning your hand luggage, as you fly from Europe!!
12. Check at home which is the best way to phone (mobile phone is extremely expensive). Ask your leaders.
Germany: phone code: 0049/... Israel/Palestine: 00972...

Sunday, Aug. 5

- 6:20 Arrival Palestinians Frankfurt
Transfer to Kastellaun along the Rhine
- 17:00 Arrival Germans
- 18:25 Arrival Israelis Frankfurt
Transfer to Kastellaun
- 21:00 Dinner Talk
- 21:30 Meeting group leaders
- 22:00 Welcoming Party



The very first meeting!



Tiring journeys

The Palestinians came first after a 24 hour journey, as they could use only certain roads in different areas of the Westbank and had to travel via a border crossing in the Jordan Valley and fly from Amman. The trip back was even more exhausting, as the end of Ramadan made them stay for another day in Amman.

Although it was raining and the German "Brötchen" (rolls) got wet, we had a picnic opposite the Loreley on "Mariah Ruh", one of the most beautiful spots in the World Heritage Region Mittelrheintal.

The Germans arrived in the afternoon after a short trip from home, the Israelis came later in the evening. Andrea (above, left) organized the room placement: "The room is too small, I want to be with all my friends, there is no air condition...." - It was not an easy job for Andrea, but nobody complained that he/she had to stay with Israelis/Germans/Palestinians in one room - a good start!

Monday, August 6

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00 | Meal service |
| 8:30 | Breakfast |
| 9:30-10:00 | Introduction: Foundation EVZ, project, organisation |
| 10:00-11:30 | Warming up activities: names, language, name tags... |
| 11:30-13:00 | Name tree |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00-16:30 | Project aims, rules, communication rules, expectations |
| 17:00-18:30 | Preparing the German cultural evening |
| 19:00 | Dinner, meal service |
| 20:00 | Reflexion within the individual groups |
| 20:30 | Reflexion altogether, leader: German |
| 21:00 | Meeting group leaders |
| 21:30 | German cultural evening |



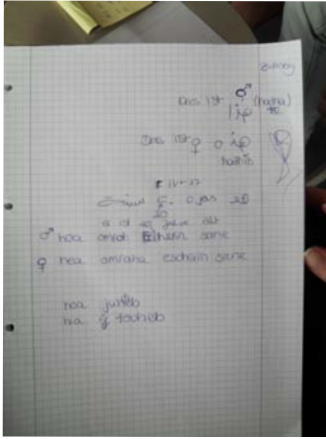
"Liebe geht durch den Magen" (A way to a man's heart is through his stomach) - an old German proverb came true. We had wonderful vegetarian meals. Everybody had to help preparing meals and washing the dishes. Some missed meat, some were vegans, some lettuce nibblers, some didn't want to eat anything.... But in the end they all got used to it, even the youngest participating guests, Justin and his brother Joschua.



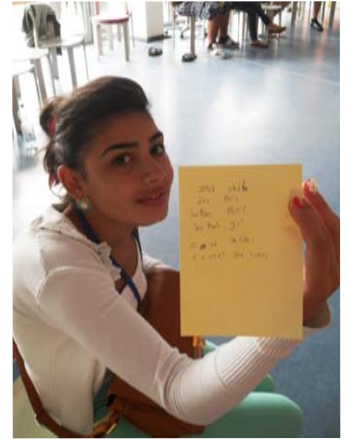
The lost suitcase - nothing to wear!!

Hila's suitcase was not on the plane in Frankfurt. But EIAl found it somewhere in Europe. After 36 hours of terrible pains and tears, a trip to Koblenz to do the necessary shopping, the suitcase finally arrived by taxi in Kastellaun.





Getting to know each other and warming-up activities, e.g. learning names, other languages, cultures: The atmosphere, the weather, the hostel - everything was perfect for all that.
 What is German culture?
 Brezel and Bratwurst and Funkenmariechen?



German culture? - Oktoberfest with beer?
 Beer drinking - typical of boys and men?

Theresa and Melanie - carnival dancers
 ("Funkenmariechen" - only for girls!)

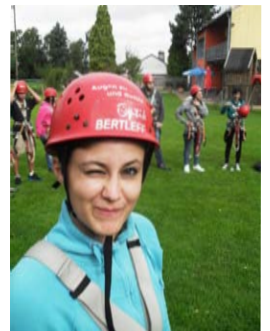


Tuesday Aug. 7

- 9:30 Team-Building activities in the forest (climbing parcours)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 -17:00 Stereotypes in mass media in the Middle East and Germany Exercises and Examples
- 17:30-18:00 Preparing the Cultural Evenings (Israelis/Palestinians)
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:00 Reflexion in the individual groups
- 20:30 Reflexion altogether
- 21:00 Meeting group leaders
- 21:30 Palestinian Cultural Evening



Too many cooks spoil the broth - the English proverb is not true in this case. More male than female cooks!



Teambuilding in the kitchen and German forests

Climbing experts and social workers were trying to put the group together

Crying together over onions, salting scrambled eggs

No mobiles, no long hair, no purse, no long earrings
- only working in a team!

