

WORKSHOPS FOR ISRAELI AND POLISH YOUTH

"TRACES OF THE TOWN"

"GRODZKA GATE – NN THEATRE CENTRE", LUBLIN 2010.

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The main aim of the workshop is to create conditions for Israeli and Polish youth to work on the topic of Jewish culture in pre-war Lublin. During the workshop youth learn about the Jewish places in Lublin, as well as about specific places in Israel. Participants, working in mixed Polish-Israeli groups, using pictures of pre-war Lublin and modern Israel, create a plan of Lublin, a town, where they would like to live together. Additionally, they learn about Icchak Jacob Horowitz and have an opportunity to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in a multicultural surrounding.

Workshop time: 120 min.

Target group: students of secondary schools in Poland and Israel.

Number of participants: 20-40 people.

Number of working groups: 5.

After the workshops, participants will be able to:

- identify the places shown in pre-war photos of Lublin,
- describe, how the Jewish Lublin looked like before the II World War,
- explain, who Icchak Jacob Horowitz (the Seer from Lublin) was,
- identify the differences between the appearance of a Jewish and Christian town on the example of pre-war Lublin,
- comment on the advantages and disadvantages of living in a multicultural/multireligious place.

References:

1. Pictures and maps of Lublin: <http://tnn.pl/ikonografia.php> (access: March 2010),
2. Pictures of Israel: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Israel?uselang=pl> (access: March 2010).

Needed materials:

- markers, crayons,
- scissors (5 pieces), glue sticks (5 pieces),
- self-adhesive labels (20-40 pieces),
- colored paper (5 blocks),
- gray paper (5 sheets) (preferably with the plan of the pre-war Lublin),
- plan of pre-war and modern Lublin [annex 3].

Workshop

Introduction to the workshop (5 min.)

The moderator welcomes the participants and asks, if there is a special reason for Israelis to visit Lublin and what they know about the multicultural past of the town. He explains, that during the workshop participants will learn about the Jewish places in Lublin, as well as about specific places in Israel.

1. Exercise – Write your name (10 min.)

Needed materials: self-adhesive labels (20-40 pieces).

Participants sit in a circle. Each person receives a self-adhesive label and writes his/her name in their own language. The Poles ask the Israelis, how to write their names in Hebrew and write the names of Israelis in Polish. As a result, each participant has a label with his/her name written in two languages. All participants stand in a circle and read their names loud.

2. Exercise – Find someone who ... (15 min.)

Needed materials: pens, annex 1.

Each participant receives a working papers [annex 1] and walks around the room, trying to find a person, who fits to the description on the working paper (and writing his/her name down). Each met person could be asked only three questions. When everyone will fill most of the fields in the working paper, they sit in a circle. The moderator asks, whose names were written in what fields. And (as last questions), who knows Icchak Jacob Horowitz and who has ever been to Szeroka 28 Street in Lublin. Most probably no one has been there, as this place does not exist anymore. The moderator explains, that this was the address of Icchak Jakob Horowitz's house. Horowitz was a famous tzaddik, known also as the Seer of Lublin. He moved to Lublin and was living in Szeroka 28 Street. Although the place does not exist, the remembrance about it, as well as about the tzaddik and Jewish community in Lublin, is still alive. The moderator points out, that during the workshop, participants will be searching for Jewish traces in modern Lublin.

3. Exercise – What is this place? (15 min.)

Needed materials: adhesive tape, annex 2.

The moderator gives each participant two identical pictures [annex 2]. Each participant needs to attach one of them on someone's back, so that this person would not know, what picture is pinned there. The second picture needs to be left on one of the chairs. As a result, on every chair there is a picture and every participant has a copy of such picture hanging on the back. Participants walk around the room, take a look of the pictures and ask other people questions in order to figure out, what picture was hung on their back. Each participant may ask one person only one question. Questions must be formulated in such way, so that the possible answers could be "yes" or "no".

Once the participants guess, what picture was hung on their back, they find it on the chair, sit on it and may remove their pictures from their back in order to verify, if they have guessed correctly. Everyone shows their pictures and tries to explain, what it is. In case of problems, the moderator may ask other participants to help or explain, what is shown in the picture.

NOTE: The photos can be repeated – depending on the number of participants of the workshop, appropriate number of photos needs to be prepared.

4. Exercise – My ideal town (15 min.)

Needed materials: 5 sets of: markers, crayons, scissors, glue, adhesive tape, colored paper, gray paper (preferably with the plan of the pre-war Lublin), the plan pre-war and contemporary Lublin [annex 3].

Participants are divided into 5 groups. Each group receives a gray paper, a set of materials to draw and a set of photographs showing the pre-war Lublin (both Christian and Jewish – photos from the previous exercise – annex 2). Participants have to design a town, where they would like to live together.

The moderator asks to write all the names of the streets in Polish and Hebrew. Participants make a collage of such town, using the pictures of synagogues, mikvah, market, church, the Polish school and the Talmud-Torah school, drawing shops, streets etc.

Each group presents its plan and explains, why they decided to make it this way. The moderator shows modern plan of Lublin and compares it with the pre-war one [annex 3].

5. Discussion – Together! But how? (15 min.)

The moderator begins a discussion on the hypothetical appearance of Lublin and other cities/towns (shtetl), if there would be still Jewish community living there. He raises questions about difficulties/benefits of living in multicultural and diverse community.

Summary of the workshop

The moderator thanks for working together during the workshop, resembles more important facts related to the pre-war history of Lublin and asks participants to summarize briefly the workshop.