

WORKSHOPS FOR ISRAELI AND POLISH YOUTH

„POLAND: ISRAEL“

“GRODZKA GATE – NN THEATRE CENTRE”, LUBLIN 2010.

BY: IZABELA BŁASIAK, MILENA MIGUT.

TRANSLATION: HEBREW – MIRIAM BORENSTEIN, ENGLISH – MILENA MIGUT.



The theme of the workshop is contemporary Poland and Israel. Participants learn about the postwar history of both countries, famous Poles and Israelis, traditional national dishes and holidays.

The workshop provides an opportunity for debate about Polish-Israeli relations and cooperation between the two countries. During the workshop there is also opportunity to discuss difficult topics, so that young people learn, how to talk about them.

Participation in the workshop shall also inspire young people to seek fields, where agreement could be reached. The workshop shows, that the future relations between the two countries depend on the knowledge and experience of people creating them. The workshop contains elements preparing participants to be active in civil society.

Additionally, the workshop allows participants to share knowledge about Poland and Israel in a direct confrontation.

After the workshops participants will be able to:

- name and describe the key events in post-war Polish and Israeli history,
- described important Poles and Israelis,
- show cities, rivers, lakes and seas on the maps of the two countries,
- name the traditional national dishes and holidays of Poland and Israel,
- describe different Polish and Israeli symbols,
- name and describe important places in Poland and Israel,
- present arguments in discussion on mutual ignorance in Poland and Israel on issues concerning both countries,
- recognize and reject the stereotypes about Poland and Israel.

Workshop time: 90 min.

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

Number of participants: 20-40 people.

Number of working groups: 5.

References:

1. http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historia_Izraela (access: March 2010),
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel (access: March 2010),
3. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Strona_glowna (access: March 2010).

Needed materials:

- Array "Time Line",
- Adhesive paper (5 sheets, each sheet cut into 6 parts),
- 32 envelopes A5 (for the pictures and names of dishes),
- 5 bags,
- 5 sets containing: menorah, mezuzah, Kipe, tefillin, Star of David, wafer, glass bulb, Easter egg, stork (wooden figure), White Eagle (figure),
- 50 sheets of paper.



Workshop

Introduction to the workshop (5 min.)

The moderator greets participants and informs about the topic of the workshop. Participants will learn about the culture and history of Poland and Israel. After each exercise every group will be able to reveal the two cards on the board "Time Line" [example in annex 1.1], that contains the dates of the most important events in post-war Polish and Israeli history. The poster contains 10 papers with date on one side and a picture on the other side (at the beginning hidden for the participants). After each exercise, the Polish group chooses one date, tries to guess, what happened in Poland in that year, than reveals the paper with chosen date and tries to describe the picture. If the group members know the date and event, the group gets a point. In the same way Israeli group reveals the papers with dates from the history of Israel. After each revealed paper the moderator matches the description of the date [annex 1.2] and asks to read it loud.

At the end of the workshop the "Time Line" with the most important dates in the history of Poland and Israel is ready. This is the starting point for a discussion about the newest history of both countries.

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 – "Polish-Israeli restaurant" (10 min.)

Needed materials: envelopes with pictures of different dishes [annex 2].

Participants sit in a circle. Each participant receives a small envelope with a card with the picture and the name of a Polish or Israeli dish [annex 2]. Participants are asked to look at the picture, remember the name of the dish and hide a card in the envelope. Then, walking around the room, everyone gives his/her envelope to another person, saying "I give you ...", without looking into the envelope while exchanging them. Exchange has to be repeated several times (about 2 minutes, 5-10 exchanges). After this time participants stand in a circle, say loud the last name of the dish, that they "got" and check, if this is the name of the dish shown in the photo in the envelope they have.

The exercise can be repeated 2-3 times, until everyone gets familiar with the names of the dishes, pronounce them properly and remember them.

3. Exercise – "Cat in a bag" (15 min.)

Needed materials: 5 bags containing 5 sets of: menorah, mezuzah, Kipe, tefillin, Star of David, wafer, glass bulb, Easter egg, stork (wooden figure), White Eagle (figure).

Participants sit in groups. Each group is given a bag with some objects (menorah, mezuzah, Kipe, tefillin, Star of David, wafer, glass bulb, Easter egg, stork – wooden figure, White Eagle – figure). Each person in a group touches one item with closed eyes, describes it and tries to guess, what it is. The group gets a point, when it names all the items in the bag.

4. Exercise – "Famous people" (15 min.)

Needed materials: 50 sheets of paper.

Participants still work in groups. For this exercise each group splits into Polish and Israeli part. Each group receives 10 cards.

On 5 of them the Polish participants write names of famous Poles and the Israeli participants – famous Israelis. On the remaining 5 papers Polish participants write short descriptions of these famous Poles and Israeli participants – famous Israelis. Cards are exchanged, the Polish groups have to assign the names of famous Israelis to their descriptions, and the Israeli groups – famous Poles. Each group among themselves evaluates the exercise and then moderator asks all the groups to present the chosen persons.

5. Exercise – "Domino of the photos" (15 min.)

Needed materials: domino cards [annex 5].

The moderator asks participants to stand in two circles, so that each circle would have an equal number of Poles and Israelis. Participants get domino cards [annex 5]. The moderator explains, that the cards must be matched like the domino game. If a participant has a card with a photograph of the Western Wall and a description of the Zygmunt's Column, he/she needs to stand between the person with the card with a description of the Western Wall and a person with a photo of the Zygmunt's Column. In the end of the exercise, there will be two circles of domino chains. Each picture should be briefly discussed in the end of the exercise.

6. Exercise – "Draw a map" (15 min.)

Needed materials: cards with shapes and maps of Poland and Israel [annex 6], pens.

The moderator asks participants to form Polish-Israeli pairs. In each pair the Polish participant gets a map of Poland (with the major cities, rivers and regions marked) on one side and the contour of Israel on the other side [annex 6.1]. Participants from Israel get a card with the completed map of Israel and the contour of Poland on the other side [annex 6.2]. Working in Polish-Israeli pairs, participants need to describe their maps in such way, so that the other person could fill in the contour of the other country, without seeing it's proper map. In the end participants are asked to compare in pairs their maps.

After all the exercises, the moderator summarizes the results of the "Time Line" game, to check, if Polish or Israeli group has gained more points.

7. Discussion – "Ignorance is aware?" (20 min.)

The moderator begins a discussion, summing up the "Time Line" game. It is important to point out, that both Poland and Israel have their dark history cards (Poland – for example March '68; Israel – not understanding the Survivors of the Holocaust after the war, and not talking about their problems for a longer time). Additional questions could be asked:

- Whether the Poles know anything about Israel and the Israelis – about Poland?
- Whether Israelis and Poles need to know something about themselves (culture, society)? Why would it be important?

The moderator asks participants to write any other questions on pieces of paper. Questions would be later read loud. Cards with questions are collected and drawn into a bag. The moderator raises all the questions. Some of them could be prepared by the moderator in advance:

- Is the service in the Israeli army obligatory?
- Do the Israelis have Palestinian friends?
- How can the Poles live in the blocks, standing next to the camp at Majdanek? (During the war there were no houses standing there)
- Do the young Poles often leave Poland and live abroad?

Summary of workshop

The moderator thanks for participation in the workshop and indicates, that it is important to maintain continuous contact between the two nations and that it is now a challenge for the participants of the workshop.