

Integration workshop for Polish and Jewish youth

By: Izabela Czumak, Milena Migut

Workshop time: 90 min.

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

Number of participants: max. 30 people.

Number of working groups: 5.

The workshop concerns the Jewish cultural heritage of Lublin and Lublin region and the knowledge about Poland and Israel. It puts great emphasis on interaction and integration of participants, their gaining insight about each other's traditions and culture. During the workshop young people working in Polish-Jewish groups, are getting acquainted with national cuisine and traditional holidays - both Polish and Jewish, discovering important places in Poland and Israel and designing a multicultural city.

The apparent lightness of the subject of exercises prepares participants for a deeper reflection on mutual self-reference of Poles and Israelis. The meeting gives them the opportunity to get to know each other and establish close contact. Additionally, by means of face-to-face communication the workshop enables participants to swap ideas and knowledge on the topic of Poland and Israel and to confront the existing ways of thinking.

Participation in the workshop will also inspire young people to seek fields, where agreement between two parties may be reached. It shows, that future relations between two countries depend on the knowledge and experience of people engaged in building them. Hence, it is designed to prepare participants for an active civil society position.

After the workshops participants will be able to:

- name and describe important places in Poland and Israel
- explain who Icchak Jakub Horowitz – The Seeyer of Lublin was
- name the traditional national dishes and holidays of Poland and Israel
- 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.

Needed materials:

- self-adhesive labels (30 pieces)
- annexes [annex 2 – annex 4]
- pens and markers (30 pieces)
- 32 envelopes A5 (for the pictures and names of dishes)
- adhesive paper (5 sheets, A1), colored paper (20 sheets, A4)
- scissors (5 pieces), glue sticks (5 pieces),

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 (30 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 ... (10 min.)

Needed materials: pens, annex 2.

Each participant receives a working papers [annex 2] 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 – "Polish-Israeli restaurant" (15 min.)

Needed materials: envelopes with pictures of different dishes [annex 3].

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 3]. 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.

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

Needed materials: domino cards [annex 4].

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 4]. 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.

5. Exercise – My ideal town (20 min.)

Needed materials: 5 sets of: markers, crayons, scissors, glue, adhesive paper, colored paper.

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). 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.

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

Participants sit in a circle, 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:

- what could be the difficulties of living in multicultural and diverse community?
- what could be the benefits of living in multicultural and diverse community?
- 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?

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.

