



Education in Europe – Encounter with Israel – Implications for Youth Work

A Joint Project of the International Youth Offices and Coordination Centers for European and International Youth Work

Antisemitism has a long history in Europe. Hostile attitudes or actions toward Jews are often seen as a primal form (prototype) of exclusion of the supposed “other”. Among other contemporary forms of group-based hostility in the midst of European (democratic) societies, antisemitism represents a specific form of discrimination that can still exist regardless of the presence of Jewish people. Attacks against Jews, antisemitic conspiracy narratives and Holocaust relativization are widespread.

This also challenges educators who strive for respectful societies and work against discrimination. Jews are often held collectively responsible for escalations in the Middle East or for global political and economic problems. Power and control are attributed to them. People and institutions dedicated to combating antisemitism, preserving the memory of the Nazi era and promoting a pluralistic society often find themselves unfairly discredited or forced to constantly justify themselves. Likewise, negative images of Israel and simplified, one-sided perceptions of the Middle East conflict are widespread in Europe.

Concept & Idea

The model project “**Facing Antisemitism in Europe! Raising Awareness in Education and Youth Work**” aims to counter various forms of antisemitism in Germany and other European countries in a differentiated and distinct manner. The project intends to establish a common framework of further education and training for educators in youth work from Germany and other European countries. This framework should offer opportunities for learning, gaining experience, and engaging in self-reflection. It aims to strengthen multipliers in education and encounter work to design educational programs in a critical and sensitive way regarding discrimination and antisemitism. This project can serve as a model and inspiration to continue to address these topics in the respective bilateral exchange and educational contexts. The concept of “*Education in Europe – Encounter with Israel*” is based on the project “*Sichtbar Handeln! Gegen Antisemitismus: Bildung in Deutschland – Begegnung mit Israel*” (sichtbar-handeln.org), which has been successfully implemented for five years and in which around 150 educators from Germany have participated so far in 8 groups in the training program that consists of several modules.

Main Topics of Seminar Modules

- ❖ **Images in the Mind – Prejudices – Anti-Jewish Myths:** Manifestations of antisemitism in history and present in the different European countries participating in the project
- ❖ **Young and Jewish in Europe:** Jewish life in past and present in the different European countries participating in the project

- ❖ **Antisemitism and National Socialism:** Dealing with history after the Shoah – Defending memory – Projections in the present
- ❖ **Israel in the Middle of the Middle East:** Different narratives – Multi-perspective insights – Complex history(ies)
- ❖ **Israel-related Antisemitism:** Characteristics and distinction
- ❖ **Antisemitism – What to Do?** Guidance for responding to statements and attacks, fostering antisemitism-awareness and discrimination-critical education and encounters, development of educational ideas and concepts and exploring opportunities between theory and practical applications.

Target Groups of the Project

A total of 50 professionals in youth work, education and international exchanges from the participating countries in Europe – 8 people from each country:

- 6 professionals in (non-formal) youth work and education from each of the participating European countries (who are not yet experts in the field of the project)
- 1 coordinator from each of the participating bilateral institutions
- 1 expert in the field of education & antisemitism from each of the participating countries
- Representatives of the bilateral youth exchange institutions & programs as guests

Project Modules

July 8–11, 2024	Preparation meeting – International Project Team – Strasbourg, France (12–15 people – 2 people from each participating country/partner)
November 11–16, 2024:	Seminar module I – Education in Europe – border region Poland/Czech Republic (up to 50 people)
December 9–15, 2024:	Seminar module II – Encounter with Israel – Meet the Diverse Society (up to 50 people)
Spring 2025:	Seminar module III – Implications for Youth Work – Germany (up to 50 people)
Second quarter 2025:	Evaluation and follow-up meeting – International Project Team – Thessaloniki, Greece (12–15 people)

“Facing Antisemitism in Europe! Education in Europe – Encounter with Israel – Implications for Youth Work” is a joint project of

- ConAct – Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange
- Franco-German Youth Office
- German-Polish Youth Office
- German-Greek Youth Office
- Tandem – Coordination Center German-Czech Youth Exchange
- Council of Youth Movements in Israel & Israel Youth Exchange Authority

The project will be conducted from 2024 to 2025 and is funded by the European Union within the framework of Erasmus+, by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and by the inviting Bilateral Youth Exchange Organizations. The project is implemented under the patronage of the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism.

Inviting Organizations

International Youth Offices and

Coordination Centers for European and International Youth Work



ConAct
Koordinierungszentrum
Deutsch-Israelischer Jugendaustausch
מרכז התיאום לחילופי נוער גרמניה ישראל



Office Franco-Allemand
pour la Jeunesse
Deutsch-Französisches
Jugendwerk



DEUTSCH-GRIECHISCHES
JUGENDWERK
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΓΕΡΜΑΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ



Deutsch-Polnisches Jugendwerk
Polsko-Niemiecka Współpraca Młodzieży



Koordinierungszentrum
Deutsch-Tschechischer
Jugendaustausch

Koordinální centrum
česko-německých
výměn mládeže



Council of Youth
Movements in Israel



Israel Youth
Exchange Authority

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Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth



Co-funded by
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Federal Government Commissioner
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(Updated: 25.07.2024)