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Web Beth Midrash-2012

Name of program

Web Beth Midrash

Year of activity

2012

Name of the report's writer

Udi Lion

Function of the report's writer

Director

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Status of program

Launching the project – we have developed and launched phase one – the digital platform. In the second half of 2013 we will start running the first 7 pilot BateiMidrash (BM). Our expectation is to gain 2 new BM in Q2 2014, 2 more in Q3 as well as in Q4.

Our aim is to reach total of 13 BM by the end of 2013.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

- Sages - Recruiting more than 100 "sages" (Jewish experts: academics, rabbis, artists, etc.) to who will participate in the discussions and provide state of the art content(Attached as Appendix A)
- Advisory Council - was established to set the content policy of the project, to determine the

criteria for selecting the sages and to design the structure of the debate process.

So far agreed to serve as the council member: Rabbi Irving ("Yitz") Greenberg (Founder, chairman, and professor in the department of Jewish studies of the City College. Former President of The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership), MK Dr. Ruth Calderon (MK, Head of Culture and Educational Programmes at The National Library, founder and Chair of ALMA), Rabbi Yuval Sherlo (Rosh Yeshivat Petach-Tikva, member of the Helsinki medical ethics committee), Prof. M. Loberbaum (Head of Philosophy Department, Tel-Aviv University), Prof. Haviva Pedaya (Author and poet, professor of Jewish Culture And Kabbala, Ben Gurion University), Prof. Yedidia Z. Stern (Professor of law, Vice President; Israeli Democracy Institute), Prof. Avigdor Shinan (Professor of Hebrew Literature and General Consultant to AVI CHAI. Specializes in Aggadah and the Midrash), Adina Bar-Shalom (Founder of the Haredi College) and Rabbi Art Green (Scholar of Jewish mysticism and Neo-Hasidism. He is a professor in the non-denominational rabbinical program at Hebrew College in Boston. Former dayan of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College).

• Board of Directors -

Mr. Uri Shanar - former CEO and President of Keshet, Mr. Barak Ben-Eliezer - former Commander of Talpiot, Mr. Yossi Zuria - founders of the NDS, Mr. Louis Bernstein founders of Sesame Street, Mrs. Lydia Kokof - formerly the CEO of the AVI Chai Foundation in North America.

Mr. Eli Kanai from Avi Chai foundation and Ami Buganim from Matanel foundation act as Foundations Observers

- Completing the fundraising of the \$175,000 to complete the development of first stage.
- Developing the Alpha digital platform: designing and computing of the initial version.
- Outreach Activities a major part of our project is to reach the general public both through specific communities and groups and to create awareness to the platform across different channels. Therefore we started to create partnerships with leading journalists like Keren Noibach (Sheder Yom show at Reshet B) and with London & Kirshenbaum show at Channel 10 in order to broadcast our unique platform to mass.
- Recruitment 4 BM for pilots during the months of June to September and another 3 BM from September to December.

June to September:

A. Midreshet Ein Prat.

B. Yeshivat Mahanaim.

C. Metzilah - Center of Zionist, Jewish, Liberal and Humanist Thought

D. the Research, Planning and Training Division in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services

September to December:

A. Midreshet Lindenbaum.

B. Beit Hillel.

C. Amit Educational Network.

- Recruiting two strategic partners for the operation of BM in the U.S.: Hebrew College. Yeshivat Chovevei Torah.

Evaluation

Since we are in the first year for the project, we think it is too early for an accurate assessment. However, the wide interest we received from various and diverse organizations— from communities and education systems in the United States to "Yeshivot", school systems and professional organizations [So far there are about 16 organizations who interested to start a pilot] - shows great potential for the development of the project

4. Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

As the results of our efforts up to now, 7 organizations join as partners to this program we are exploring the opportunity to partner and collaborate another 6 Batei Midrash from the many Batei Midrash that have expressed interest to start a pilot.

5. List of Appendices:

- Appendix A - A summary and list of participants.
- Appendix B – Budget.
- Appendix C – Photo from the platform development.
- Appendix D - Platform Simulation:

https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B_VbNHWxuefjCHV2aG1SUndHZkE/edit?usp=sha...

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