



Published on *matanel* (<http://www.matanel.org>)

Midrasha Lemaaseh-2014

Name of program

Midrasha Lemaaseh

Year of activity

2014

Name of the report's writer

Dani Zamir

Function of the report's writer

Director of the Joint Council of the Israeli-Zionist Pre-Army Leadership Programs ("Moezet Hamechinot")

Status of program

The program was conducted in two centers – Jerusalem (second year) and Haifa (first year). In Jerusalem a group of 15 people met once a week from Thursday evening to Friday midday for 30 sessions that combined study, meeting with people in the field and contact with experienced mentors to help them develop in their chosen field of public professionalism. In Haifa, a group of 14 met to once a week from Thursday evening to Thursday midnight for 26 sessions to study together and investigate the possibilities of influencing Israeli society through various fields with a public orientation. During this year, we worked mainly on building the program for the future, identifying a target audience and adapting the program to their needs and limitations. We split up into teams to plan how to put the ideas of the program into practice in the second year.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

In Jerusalem: 30 sessions at the end of which 12 of the participants continued to be active in the field they had studied and specialized in during the program.

In Haifa: 26 sessions, at the end of which a cohesive group was created to carry on into the second year (this year) in which the process of establishing a joint action group for civil leadership is moving forward so that it can work in Hadar and other neighborhoods in northern

Haifa.

Evaluation

The program is of a very high quality and well planned, and in general it infused the participants with energy and with real tools with which to confront issues that are directly related to leadership and social activism.

No external evaluation was conducted, but feedback questionnaires were distributed to examine how far the program matched expectations, whether goals were met and the degree of participant satisfaction.

For all the above parameters, the responses were highly positive: great satisfaction and the response that the program gives young adults real prospects at this stage of their lives.

The greatest difficulty lay in adapting the program to its target audience – students or pre-students who are busy with work or studies. The challenge is to create a program that is sufficiently meaningful to attract people who will devote their time to it without any material recompense or scholarship.

The program is intended for an audience striving to make a decision about a way of life and choice of profession, but when such people's everyday reality is still full of questions and clarifications, most participants vacillate between the desire to choose a path and a dream, and the doubts whether this is the real thing. It was very hard to find an audience with whom this program would resonate.

One of our conclusions is that we should conduct an intensive opening (lasting about a month) and then start the annual program which includes individual and group accompaniment over a period of years and directed towards a profession or occupation.

Others

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

The recommendations from the year that has finished are to prepare an intensive program that focuses on a target audience of people who have not yet chosen their path in life – discharged soldiers, pre-students – and who are ready to spend more time clarifying their decisions and the values that underpin them.

We need to find the ways and means to award scholarships that will give the participants the necessary free time for a true encounter with and experience of social endeavor and impact.

The demand made of the program participants should be to choose a field they would like to work in and offer them accompaniment during their university studies and later on in this field of work. In other words – an intensive seminar and then a group and individual process from which the participant can set out along a chosen path accompanied in the following years by a mentor and/or the program coordinator.