

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: City Garden at Naftali building, Tel-Aviv University
Year 2: 2021-2022

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole report will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: The Matanel City Garden at the Naftali building, at Tel-Aviv University

Year of activity: Second year, 2021-22

Name of the report's writer: Prof. Itai Sened

Function of the report's writer: Dean of the Gershon H. Faculty of Social Sciences at Tel-Aviv University

Mail: sened@tauex.tau.ac.il Phone: +972-52-3409043

Website / Facebook address of the organization: <https://english.tau.ac.il/>

Number of active participants in the program: 200 direct participants (regular students and research students), as well as thousands of indirect students participating in the regular activities that take place on the site on a regular basis.

Estimated number of impacted participants: All TAU students (up to 30,000) + thousands of other participants.

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

The vertical wall and the garden are completed, and were inaugurated on October 17th, 2021, in a ceremony attended by TAU President, Prof. Ariel Porat; Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Itai Sened; Matanel Foundation Co-Chair, Mrs. Joelle Aflalo, the entire leadership of the Matanel Foundation headed by Dr. Ami Bouganim, students and staff.

The garden hosts a variety of activities: from teaching and research to serving as a get-away focal spot for students from all corners of the campus. Additionally, the garden became the base of activity to the "Students for Climate" students' cell; the Institute for Local Government; The ICRC - Blavatnic Interdisciplinary [Cyber Research Center](#); the home base for the Israeli Forum of Coastal Cities and the Trump Program for Excellence in Math Teaching; The TAU Social Sciences program for high school students from the periphery (independently supported by the Matanel Foundation as well); as well as several other formal and informal entities associated with local national and global wellbeing very broadly defined. Finally and most

significantly, the garden and the adjacent office and classroom facilities, completed this year, have become the formal meeting place of the faculty and students of our newly inaugurated [International Graduate School of Social Sciences](#).

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

As we reported in the previous report, the first year of activities focused on the construction of the wall and garden. This year, we put into action the teaching and research activities, involving 30 students from the Public Policy Department who take regular classes in the garden and conduct most of their work on their final MA project out of the garden, and about 20 research students in Prof. Mamane's course "Sustainable technologies" in the MSc program in the [Developing Countries program](#). The garden is not only a gathering place, but a basis for climate action and a location for actual teaching.

This year we added to the mix, a number of activities with global networks of international students through three venues: first, the faculty hosts five MA programs for international students – Cyber, Immigration, Conflict Resolution, Security and Diplomacy and Developing Countries- Sustainable Development. These programs connect the Garden on a daily basis to international students around the globe joining us for activities of these students in joint classes, lectures and other educational activities with other top High Education Institutes around the globe.

Second, we completed paving the roof of the Naftali Building with photovoltaic cells. Additionally, a Watergen water machine will supply all the drinking water and the water needed to water the vertical green wall, powered by its own specially designed photovoltaic aluminum tiles. This mini-grid is a unique lab of its own right that serves as a prototype to a new research lab built on its foundation that will study the general premise of turning the entire traditional distribution electricity networks into networks of interdependent and independent local mini-grids of different sizes as a model for the future of production and consumption ("prosumption") of electric power. The Lab is headed by Professor Asher Tishler, former Dean of the Faculty of Management at Tel Aviv University, Professor Itai Sened, Current Dean of Social Sciences and Dr. Vered Blass from the Proter school at TAU.

Finally, we have matched up with the municipality of Tel Aviv to make of the garden a Beta site to study different policy solutions to environmental urban challenges, a few of which are already completed and a new round of which is being organized to start this academic year in and around the Garden and adjacent office and classroom facility.

Please see, attached, a brief report on active research project currently active at the Matanel Garden at TAU.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...): The evaluation report will be submitted by the beginning of the 2022-23 academic year.

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

Our plans for next year include several parallel paths:

- (1) Deepening and broadening of the research activity even further;
- (2) Making the garden a hub for small scale off grid, decentralized, micro grid tech with small foot print for environmental and sustainable tech development and integration, adding to it two research oriented local vegetable gardens to prove that we can create an entire autonomous self-sufficient urban ecosystem of wellbeing for our students and visitors;
- (3) Continuing our effort at separating the building's grey water for irrigation for the Matanel garden, comparing it to parameters of growth and wellbeing of the green wall watered by water from the Watergen machine on the roof, as well as the current sensors that give data on carbon dioxide conc. relative to a control zone;
- (4) Continue and expand our wide range of activities in the garden: teaching, meeting of student groups, cultural events and more.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (**as PDF documents**) > These reports will be submitted by the beginning of the 2022-23 academic year.

Please join photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**

Please join a 5-minute movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors >

Here is the link: <https://www.bmiglobalsolutions.org/single-post/inauguration-of-the-matanel-garden>