

# MATANEL FOUNDATION

## ACTIVITY REPORT

**Program:** The Institute for Training Rabbinic Leadership in Israel  
**Year:** 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 Institute for Training Rabbinic Leadership in Israel

Year of activity: 2022

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Function of the report's writer: Head of Training Program

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The program was launched with 12 active fellows, starting on February 9. All fellows in the program serve in various rabbinical and educational positions throughout the country.

This is the list of fellows in the program's first cohort:

הרב חנן אטלס	הרב אברהם סתיו
הרב מתתיהו כאהן	הרב עקיבא צוקרמן
הרב נדב ניזרי	הרב רפאל פדה
הרב ידידיה לאו	הרב ערן דאום
הרב איתמר עברון	הרב עוזיאל קדם
הרב אברהם ביטון	הרב שי בן נחום

More details about the fellows, their backgrounds and areas of expertise can be found on the program's website. On the site you can also see various pictures from the life of the beit midrash. In addition, here you can see ads and invitations to the seminars we held throughout the year.

The program takes place three full days a week: Wednesdays and Thursdays at Yad Rabbi Nissim in Jerusalem, and Mondays in Bat Yam.

Most of the time in the program is devoted to studying for passing the certification exams of the Chief Rabbinate of a city in Israel. During the first half of the year we dealt with the subject of 'prayer and blessings' and were examined on it at the beginning of the month of Nissan. We are now dealing with the laws of the holidays,

which we will examine in the coming month of Cheshvan, and then we will move on to studying the laws of Passover.

Alongside the study and lessons that take place on the subject studied in preparation for the tests themselves, the program also includes a number of enrichment programs that deal with the various challenges facing the State Rabbinate in the State of Israel.

A regular weekly lesson, led by Rabbi Yitzhak Shuraki, deals with the tradition of ruling and leadership of the sages of Spain and North Africa in recent generations, focusing on various topics, including: questions of economic and social policy, the perception of the community and the responsibility of the arbiter towards its various parts, the institution of regulations, familiarity with the teachings and leadership of prominent figures among the communities in East and North Africa.

Another framework that takes place is a series of meetings with Rabbi David Stav in which we dealt with practical questions and challenges on the daily agenda of a city rabbi in Israel, and in depth on his various fields of activity, and the dilemmas that characterize them. Among the topics we dealt with: chuppah and kiddushin registration, chuppah and kiddushin, teaching Torah to diverse audiences, kashrut system, and more.

Alongside these two frameworks, from time to time we hold special seminars that are joined by other rabbis who prepare themselves for the role of city rabbinat in Israel. So far, two such seminars have been held: one dealt with the relationship between the city's rabbi and the mayor (attended by Bat Yam Mayor Zvika Brut, and Petah Tikva Rabbi Micha Halevi), and the other dealt with the challenges of kosher systems for restaurants and factories (and was attended by Rabbi Zeev Whitman, Rabbi of Tnuva, Rabbi Eyal Moshe, and Rabbi Alon Tenenbaum).

These two seminars were attended by a total of about 20 rabbis, among the fellows of the program, as well as other rabbis who are members of the City Rabbinat Forum, which we established alongside the program itself.

All but one of the fellows took the first exam of the Chief Rabbinat, and we are currently awaiting the results of the test.

Alongside all the components of the program listed so far, the program also holds special lectures from time to time. So far, the fellows have met with the following figures: Rabbi Yaakov Roger, a member of the Chief Rabbinical Council, and the Rabbi of Bat Yam, Prof. Moshe Halbertal, Prof. Zvi Zohar, Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, Dr. Ariel Finkelstein.

**Temporary guidelines for advancing the program next year:**

We are currently completing the construction of the group for the second year of the program, which will consist of about 10 new fellows. These rabbis will join the program during the upcoming month of Elul, for a period of two years.

Next year we plan to hold once a month a tour and half a seminar in various fields, in which all fellows will participate, and some of them also other rabbis who are members of the City Rabbinat Forum.