

*MATANEL FOUNDATION*

*ACTIVITY REPORT*

**Program: Together – a Regional Program for Educating Arabs and Jews in  
Technology and Science  
Year: 2022-2023**

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

Name of the Program: Together – a Regional Program for Educating Arabs and Jews in Technology and Science

Year of activity: 2022-2023

Name of the report's writer: Sapir Melamed

Function of the report's writer: Assistant to the CEO

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Number of active participants in the program: 46

Estimated number of impacted participants:

Based on past experience and participants' testimonies, we know that family members of those who partake in the program are being impacted by it as well; the children who participate in the program reflect their experiences back to their parents, who in return develop a greater desire to invest in their children's STEM education. This year, in the Together program, we estimate that the number of people impacted by it beyond those who participated stands at approximately 90 people.

It should be noted we also believe participants' younger siblings are being impacted by the program, as they also develop a desire to study science and technology following their older siblings. However, we are unable to estimate their number.

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

We have recently finished the second year of activity for the program, which has been successful (see the assessment report enclosed). Given that success, we began promoting the program to schools in both sectors and measuring interest. So far, there's strong indication that many students would like to participate in the program should it open, and we are therefore hoping to hold it in the 2023-2024 school year as well. For that reason, we are also updating and revising the curriculum based on last year's assessment, in order to further develop and improve the program.

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

This year, the Together Program had 46 participants, Jews and Arabs, who participated in engaging classes in the fields of science and technology alongside social activities. From last year's program, we learned that activities which facilitated cooperation between the children helped positively influence their beliefs regarding the possibility of such cooperation between people from different backgrounds and religions. Accordingly, this year, we made sure the program included activities of this nature as well, in which the children had to cooperate in order to save a drowning victim, prevent a head injury, solve riddles by using physics and more.

Additionally, we included joint social activities, such as cooking together and learning different phrases in Hebrew and Arabic, designed to allow the children to get familiar with each other's cultures, while getting to further know each other as individuals.

From our assessment and participants' feedback, we learn that those two types of activities were both impactful and influential. From the evaluation (further discussed in the next segment and the attached report), we learned that the program greatly increased the children's optimism regarding the possibility of friendship between Jews and Arabs and the possibility the relationship between the two sectors will improve in the near future. Moreover, the children testified that the program helped them to get to know the "other side" better, not just as a group but as individuals, improved their language skills, and created friendships they wanted to preserve even after the program ended. In addition, many of the children also expressed a strong desire to participate in the program next year as well.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

Just as in the previous year, in order to test the effectiveness of the program and properly assess it, we conducted an evaluation at the beginning of the program and at its end, using questionnaires that were distributed to the participants.

The program goals, as set at the beginning of the project, are as follows:

1. Promoting tolerance and understanding among Arab and Jewish children.
2. Encouraging scientific thinking among children and imparting them with the skills for carrying out scientific research.
3. Inspiring curiosity and a will to engage in future scientific and technological activity.

The results of the evaluation show that the program was successful in attaining those objectives. Thus for example, 78% of the participants said they would like to work in the fields of science, technology and medicine when they grow up, and 92% of them believed STEM education could contribute to their future.

In terms of tolerance and perception of the other sector, perhaps the biggest impact can be seen in the degree of optimism the children showed at the beginning of the program, compared to its end. Thus, at the beginning of the program, only 48% of participants answered 'yes' when asked whether a true friendship can exist between

people of different religions. In comparison, at the end of the program, the percentage of participants who answered positively stood at 61%, a 13% increase from the beginning of the program.

An even bigger increase was registered in the number of participants who believed the relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel will improve in the near future. At the beginning of the program, only 19% of the participants replied positively to the question, yet by the end of the program, 61% of the participants believed such an improvement was possible, an impressive increase of 42%.

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

One of the main conclusions we've drawn from the program this year, was the importance of emphasizing similarities between the participants rather than their differences. We've seen the biggest changes in group dynamics following activities that focused on helping the kids see themselves in their peers from the other group, as well as activities that facilitated cooperation and communication between participants from both groups.

As such, looking forward to next year, we intend to implement 2 adjustments to the program's curriculum:

1. Holding more of the social activities focusing on similarities between the children at the beginning of the year.
2. Including more scientific-technological activities that facilitate and encourage cooperation between the groups (working in mixed teams to save a drowning victim, solve a "hacking" attack, etc.).

The goal of those changes is to encourage the creation of a cohesive group dynamic and more interaction between children from both sectors, at the beginning of the program and throughout it. By doing so, we hope to create an even more meaningful process for the participants, both from an educational and interpersonal perspective.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (**as PDF documents**)

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 minutes 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.

Please see below 2 relevant videos:

1. A video presenting the Technoda and the work being done in and by it:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vI8PXEgj5o4>
2. A short video summarizing the 2022-2023 Together Program:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=664E02dXvjk>