

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Summer program of the International Summer Science Institute (ISSI) of the Weizmann Institute*

Participation awarded as a prize in the context of the National Jonk Fuerscher contest 2023

Year: 2023

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:

*“Summer program of the International Summer Science Institute (ISSI) of the Weizmann Institute”
Participation awarded as a prize in the context of the National Jonk Fuerscher contest 2023*

Year of activity: 2023

Name of the report's writer: **Sousana Eang**

Function of the report's writer: **Director**

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Number of active participants in the program: **1 - Petra Straga**

Estimated number of impacted participants: **1 - Petra Straga**

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

The Matanel Foundation sponsorship enables the Fondation Jeunes Scientifiques Luxembourg to award one exceptional young laureate who participated to the national Jonk Fuerscher contest with the opportunity to participate in the ISSI's summer program, which takes place once a year, during 4 weeks (04.07-27.07.2022) for participants from Israel and all over the world between the ages of 18 and 20.

For the first time since COVID related travel issues, ISSI's summer camp was organized in person again, allowing our Jonk Fuerscher to travel to Israel and really be immersed into the world of science and cultural exchange.

The program's main focus is working on a group project with participants from a variety of different nations and backgrounds. The program not only allowed Petra an incredible opportunity to learn about the world of science from impressive tutors and lecturers, but also to exchange with like-minded youngsters between the ages of 18 and 20 through various social activities.

Science is important, but so is teamwork and the chance of exchange - whether scientific ideas and projects or on a more social level. This melting pot of exceptional international laureates, allows the widening of their horizon in the world of science, but also on a personal level. They see and learn new experiences, which allows them to grow and develop their individual mindset.

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

The program Petra Straga followed at the ISSI, presented a great opportunity for personal and professional growth by having the opportunity to discuss with prestigious scientists of the Weizmann Institute, as well as meeting and collaborating with like-minded peers from around the world, and getting crucial insight into the reality of the scientific world.

The main achievement of this project is to continue giving a Jonk Fuerscher contest winner the opportunity to deep dive into a project with spectacular mentors and like-minded participants, as well as allow them to explore and discover a new culture and make important friendships and connections with mentors and participants from all across the world.

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

The advantages of the ISSI program consist in the learning experience the participants gain both through a theoretical and a practical approach, and by additionally focusing on the importance of the social aspect of Science:

On the one hand, the participants are attending lectures by scientists of the Weizmann Institute, and can interact with them directly. On the other hand, they get to do a group project together with other participants, and whose results they present at the end of the program.

Furthermore, socializing activities allow them to get to know other participants, on a more personal and social level, build new friendships and thus underlining the importance of the social and human part of science - the team work necessary to move science forward.

Finally, the ISSI program, after 3 years of it either being canceled or virtual, has reverted back to the standard and exceptional in person event. It is clear from Petra's testimonial, that the in person event in comparison to the virtual one, does really elevate the experience to another level. Although, the virtual experience, with the effort that was made by the entire ISSI team, was exceptional, going back to the in person event, was

not only a must, but of core importance. Direct exchange, being immersed into a new world, really allows the participants to gain a concrete understanding of the real world of science, and the direction they would like to take their careers in.

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

There are not many improvements to be mentioned, now that the ISSI program, is back to being an in person event. A few comments were made by our participant, related to the timing of the event, being in the heavy heat of July months and also certain organizational improvements, however all in all, it is an impeccable program, that any young scientist could only dream of - and remains the most exciting opportunity we can offer our Jonk Fuerscher.

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

Please see the documents “1.Evaluation report”, “2.Financial report”
The participant is: Petra Straga

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

Please see the attached document “Photos + descriptions - Petra Straga”

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.

Short movie of the FJSL’s National Jonk Fuerscher Contest & Expo-Sciences Luxembourg 2023:

[National Jonk Fuerscher Contest 2023- Movie Recap](#)

Short movie of Petra Straga’s presentation at the FJSL’s National Jonk Fuerscher Contest:

[Petra Straga - 52nd National Jonk Fuerscher Contest](#)

Please see the Digital ISSI 2023 - Journal of Scientific Reports for more information on all the projects.

Please also have a look at the folder: ISSI 2023 Photos, for all the pictures taken during the ISSI program by the organisers.