

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Summer Youth University*
Year: 2026

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: *Summer Youth University*

Year of activity: 2026

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Number of active participants in the program: 41

Estimated number of impacted participants: 41

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

The Summer Youth University was implemented in 2026 with 41 students, according to the objectives presented in the original grant application. The program provided an intensive academic and social experience designed to prepare students for higher education.

The program combined university-level academic courses, academic skills development, social and cultural activities, leadership workshops. Participant identification and recruitment were in collaboration with Hazank LaAtid (The Future Initiative), bringing together students from diverse social, cultural and geographic backgrounds.

Leadership development was an important part of the program. In collaboration with Hazank LaAtid, students participated in leadership workshops and a joint leadership event with students from the Academic Program in Social Sciences at Tel Aviv Youth University.

The 2026 program has now been completed successfully, with positive feedback regarding the academic experience, personal growth and supportive learning environment.

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

The program reached 41 participants and included academic, social and leadership components.

Key achievements included:

- Providing students with an intensive university-level academic experience and exposure to university life.
- Developing academic skills, including independent learning, persistence, time management and coping with academic challenges.
- Creating an inclusive learning community bringing together students from diverse backgrounds and regions.
- Supporting students' confidence and independence.
- Developing leadership skills through workshops with Hazank LaAtid, connecting academic learning with initiative and social responsibility.
- Encouraging students to explore new academic interests and consider future education opportunities.

A key highlight was a joint leadership event with the Academic Program in Social Sciences. Students from both programs, which are supported by the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tel Aviv University, participated in a lecture by Prof. Udi Sommer on “Leadership in the Trump Era”, connecting political theory with current issues of leadership, democracy and public influence. The lecture was followed by interactive leadership workshops led by Hazank LaAtid, where students reflected on leadership, worked together and discussed their own leadership potential.

The event reflected the approach of Tel Aviv Youth University: combining academic excellence with critical thinking, leadership, social responsibility and civic engagement.

Student feedback also reflected these achievements. Participants described the program as a safe and supportive environment in which they could grow. One student wrote: *“I learned that I am capable of dealing with things I never thought I could succeed in, and that I can learn and manage even in a new and unfamiliar environment.”* Another wrote: *“I discovered that I am capable of persevering even when things are difficult, and that I can do much more than I think.”*

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

The program was evaluated through participant feedback and observation by the program staff, focusing on the academic experience, personal development, sense of belonging, leadership and overall satisfaction.

Overall, the results were positive. Students valued the exposure to challenging academic subjects, the university environment and the opportunity to meet peers from different backgrounds. Feedback indicated increased confidence and independence, as well as improved ability to cope with academic challenges and a strong academic curiosity.

Students also emphasized the supportive atmosphere. One participant wrote: *“You can really feel the care and the sense of security. I felt that this was the place where I could flourish.”* Another described the program as *“one of the most amazing programs I have ever participated in”* and expressed a wish to continue.

Compared with the previous cohort, the 2026 program maintained its core model of combining academic excellence with social and personal development, while strengthening its leadership component through collaboration with Hazank LaAtid. The feedback supports the value of this integrated model in preparing students for higher education and encouraging their continued academic development.

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

In the coming year, the program will continue to focus on the following main areas: academic excellence, personal growth, leadership and social inclusion.

The program will:

- Continue providing high-quality university-level courses and academic skills training.
- Strengthen students' preparation for higher education, particularly independent learning, persistence and coping with academic challenges.
- Further develop leadership through workshops and practical activities, including continued collaboration with **Hazank LaAtid**.
- Maintain a diverse and supportive community and provide social, cultural and enrichment activities that strengthen students' sense of belonging.
- Strengthen follow-up with participants and encourage their continued academic engagement through Tel Aviv Youth University and future higher education opportunities.

The continued support of the Matanel Foundation will allow us to provide talented young people from diverse backgrounds with meaningful academic interest a better preparation for their educational opportunities and support their future development.

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.