

Utilizing Middle Eastern Civic Education as a Leverage for Peace



Context/short summary:

For many years the region is struggling with serious cultural and religious conflicts. The project's overall objective consists of promotion of peace and security in the Middle-East, by laying a foundation for mutual trust between the parties involved.

Since the role of civic education in conflict resolution of multiethnic and multicultural societies, as well as in the knowledge transfer of democratic values, is crucial, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and its partners from Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Autonomous Territories implemented the EU co-funded project "Utilizing Middle Eastern Civic Education as a Leverage for Peace". One of the main ideas behind this project was to involve teachers in the promotion of tolerance and peace because they are considered to represent the most suitable education and change agents to achieve this project's goals.

Partners:

- Shaar Hanegev High School, Israel
- Palestinian Center for Growth and Human Development (PCGHD), Palestine
- Centre for Peace and Development (ACPD), Jordan

Objectives:

The overall objective was to generate an understanding of the recent history of democracy in the Middle East among the local populations and to lay a foundation for an approach towards peaceful relations between the parties involved. Furthermore, the main aim of the project was to prepare the ground for social change with special focus on the change of thought patterns which is required for realising a vision of an egalitarian and just society which accepts the "other".

Further objectives consisted in establishing educational tools and mechanisms on peace education through 15 schools in Jordan, Israel and Palestine and in creating a network and initiating a dialogue in order to ensure the sustainability of these tools.

Expected results:

The results were a developed comprehensive education programme on tolerance and peace implemented into the class curricula in selected schools in Israel, Palestine and Jordan. Furthermore improved inter-cultural exchanges on tolerance and peace between students were expected as well as broadly distributed mechanisms for peaceful education and the acknowledgment of these tools by the schools involved.



Mediterranean Area: Israel, Palestine (West Bank, Gaza), Jordan

Activities:

The main activities were research and review activities on the current level of civic education, training and capacity building activities for school teachers, classroom programmes for students on local level as well as inter-cultural working groups for students on an international level. Furthermore, get-together workshops for selected students have been organized. In this context the students had the opportunity to get acquainted with the other side's culture and religion.

Target group:

The target group was composed of 15 trainers and 120 teachers. Moreover 15-20 classes of three Israeli schools, two schools in the Gaza strip (4 classes), 5 schools in the West Bank (10 classes) and 5 schools in Jordan (10 classes) - or in other words more than 900 students - were targeted by this project.

Final beneficiaries:

The main beneficiaries were trainers, school teachers and students who were directly involved in the project action. Indirect beneficiaries – benefiting from the output of the project activities without actively taking part – were other schools and their teachers as well as parents who have been invited to take part in the school discussions.

Funding:

- 80% European Commission – EU Partnership for Peace *Budget line BGUE-B2005-19.080201*
- 20% KAS funding



Website:

<http://www.kas.de/wf/en/71.6333/>
<http://www.kas.de/proj/home/home/24/1/index.html>



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