

KICKFAIR

מרכז פרס לשלום
مركز بيرس للسلام
The Peres Center For Peace



Frieden
أركل
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KICK

**KICK for
UNDERSTANDING
| PLAY for PEACE**

Youth Leadership
and Peacebuilding Through Football

January-September 2011

Frieden
שלום
בעיטה
سلام

"...although geographical distances and cultural differences it was so awesome to see and feel the junction of the three religions. It was so brilliant to meet so many different people."

Michaela (German)





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FOREWORD

BY Edwin Moses

Chairman of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation

The Laureus Sport for Good Foundation supports a global network of groundbreaking organisations that use sport to improve the lives of young people. As Chairman, I have witnessed at first hand the impact of these programmes, and I am proud to count the Peres Centre for Peace and KICKFAIR as members of the Laureus family.

Each organisation Laureus supports has its own unique context and expertise, but many face similar social challenges and all use sport as part of the solution. Over the years we have found that they can achieve much more by working together than by working alone. In fact, the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation's key strength is not only its ability to seek out and fund groundbreaking organisations that use sport as a social tool, but also its ability to connect organisations to one another, so that cutting edge practices and ideas can be shared.

Laureus is delighted to support the Kick for Understanding, Play for Peace programme as part of our ongoing commitment to the replication of good practice in the use of sport as a social tool. During the exchange, young leaders have had an opportunity to share valuable skills in youth leadership and peace building, and to benefit from life changing intercultural exchanges. These experiences and skills will stay with them and can also be passed on to others in their community.

I would like to thank the young leaders involved for their fantastic work using sport to uplift their communities and to congratulate the Peres Centre for Peace and KICKFAIR for delivering this hugely successful exchange programme.

Finally, I wish to thank the co-funders who together have made this project possible.

I look forward to seeing the continued impact of this inspirational partnership.

Edwin Moses

Chairman

Laureus Sport for Good Foundation





About the Exchanging Organizations: KICKFAIR (Germany) & the Peres Center for Peace (Israel & the Palestinian Territories)

KICKFAIR

KICKFAIR has followed a long-term, applied concept for education, learning, training and schooling since 2001. One main focus is on the development of youth leaders through football. KICKFAIR is locally active but connected around the world. Changes take place on site and learning occurs through exchanges with others. This is why our projects are locally anchored and internationally connected. KICKFAIR trains multipliers throughout Germany, teaches internationally active youth leaders, and accompanies young adults on their road

to responsibility. German federal ministries, state governments, universities, foundations, associations, and businesses count among our long-term partners and supporters.

In all projects, KICKFAIR improves individual skills and supports personal development - in street football and for life. It uses street football to promote capacity building through the interaction between youth development and community development. A special focus is on socially underprivileged young people with little access to education and personal development. KICKFAIR gives them a space for learning and acting, where they can develop important skills and competencies for positive life perspectives and a positive future plan.



KICKFAIR projects are not determined by the place, but rather by the special way of playing. Girls and boys play in mixed teams of four on four. There is no referee. Special forms of communication and scoring must therefore be agreed upon: before the game begins, teams meet in the dialogue zone and

agree upon the rules and how they will interact with one another. So-called 'mediators,' young people, who are themselves from the target group, guide the process. After the final whistle, the extent to which the rules were kept is judged and awarded with fair play points. These community-awarded fair play points are weighted equally to goals scored in the game.

One main focus is on self-organisation and peer-to-peer learning. Supported by local KICKFAIR supervisors, the youth take control of street football and parallel projects themselves. They work out various offers of street football for other children and youngsters in their community. They bring their own ideas and imagination into the projects and gradually take on more and more responsibility in an ever-increasing range of tasks. As ambassadors, they

impart the "philosophy of street football" to other children and young people. As mentors, they pass their knowledge from the project work on to younger children. This increases self-esteem and confidence in their own capabilities. In addition, during this process the young people acquire important key qualifications which are in ever-increasing demand in the apprenticeship and job markets: A sense of responsibility, flexibility, organisational skills or the ability to work in a team.

In regular 'Orga-Meetings', the youth in the projects plan events, organise tournaments and develop further projects with street football. There are no limits to the creativity and fantasy of the youngsters. Whether in a car park, underpass or in the school playground, Street Football for Tolerance can be played anywhere. The youth leaders set the time and place, obtain permission from the town council, invite teams, guests and sponsors, plan the catering, decide on the timing and procedure of the game and carry out the whole event by themselves.

In the role of mediators, young people learn how to stand before a group, how to lead a discussion and how, as role model and ambassador, to impart values such as fairness and respect to others. They are often confronted with very emotional and conflicting situations. The young people get together regularly in mediator meetings to discuss and process their experiences. For example, they think about how they deal with conflicts and which communication techniques could be useful to them.

One main KICKFAIR project is KICKFORMORE, supported by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation in Germany. KICKFORMORE is currently based in five communities in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg and will be further spread throughout Germany in the upcoming years.

KICKFORMORE currently reaches out yearly to about 2,500 youngsters and young adults between the ages of 11 and 25.

The Peres Center for Peace

The Peres Center for Peace is Israel's leading non-profit organization promoting peacebuilding between Israel and its Arab neighbors, and in particular between



Israelis and Palestinians. Founded in 1996 by the President of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shimon Peres, the Peres Center conducts dozens of projects that reach thousands of Israelis and Palestinians, all premised on a belief that an effective and sustainable peace can only be achieved through the promotion of trust and understanding at the personal and professional levels. This goal is achieved by fostering socio-economic cooperation and people-to-people interaction in fields of mutual interest as diverse as medicine, the environment, business, sports, youth, IT, the arts, and more.

The ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians continues to have severely negative effects on individuals and communities in the region. Existing tensions result in frustration and antagonism, creating a breeding ground for hostility and violence. Children on both sides have limited capacity to process and manage the impact of the conflict, and therefore suffer harsh emotional and psychological distress. A direct consequence of the ongoing conflict is that Palestinian and Israeli youth have almost no opportunity to meet and interact, something which results in negative attitudes toward "the other side". They face barriers which are further reinforced by negative framing of the "other side" by the media, the educational system and their family environment.

The Peres Center for Peace believes sport is a vital tool for bringing Palestinians and Israelis together in a safe atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect. The Peres Center for Peace's Twinned Peace Sport Schools Program (TPSS) annually engages 1,500 – 2,000 children aged 6 – 18 from twinned communities in Israel and the Palestinian Authority.



Through sport, with its unique capacity to transcend barriers and bring disparate groups together, the program enables children from conflict areas to overcome hatred and suspicion, break down prejudices and stereotypes towards the “other”, and learn values of friendship and cooperation, in a safe, enjoyable and healthy environment.

The TPSS program specifically targets severely underprivileged and conservative communities whose citizens are less disposed to reconciliation activities and are in greater need of high-quality sporting and educational frameworks. To maximize the impact of the program, children take part for up to six years, greatly enhancing the benefits of the programme for both the individual participants and for the ties between Palestinian and Israeli communities. Finding stable funding for this program to ensure its continuity and expansion is a significant challenge.

In each participating locality in Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the Peres Center for Peace and its Palestinian partner, the Al Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue, establish a football, basketball or other sports school, provides the children with weekly sport training, peace education activities and inter-language learning. The children meet with their twinned school for monthly joint Palestinian-Israeli activities and other special events.

Since its inception in 2002, the Twinned Peace Sport Schools programme has touched the lives of over 12,000 Palestinian and Israeli children, and those of tens of thousands of additional family and community members from both sides of the conflict.

“You can’t judge anyone before getting to know them. After getting to know them all I don’t judge them any more as “Germans” or “Arabs”, but feel like they are my brothers and sisters”

Mili (Israeli)





Background: The History of the Exchange

The Peres Center for Peace and KICKFAIR have been aware of each other's activities for many years, and have been following each other's projects and development with interest.

The 2010 Football for Hope Festival in South Africa, where KICKFAIR and the Peres Center both participated, allowed a deeper exchange of knowledge and information about each other's approach to social change through football. Following this meeting, KICKFAIR and the Peres Center began to realize they not only share a common vision, but that they also have similar philosophical approaches on how to use football for social changes.



Specifically, KICKFAIR was very interested in the peacebuilding elements of the Peres Center's projects, while the Peres Center wanted to learn more about KICKFAIR's emphasis on education and development through football, and the development of youth leaders within the communities.

Consequently, since July 2010 both organizations have undergone an intense process of familiarization and have begun a common learning process. The first opportunity for significant interaction was KICKFAIR's "With a Ball Through Life" project, begun in September 2010, to which the Peres Center was a main partner within the framework of the 2011 FIFA Women's world cup 2011.

With the support of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, adidas and the German Ministry of Interior, KICKFAIR and the Peres Center then had the opportunity to undertake an exchange project in 2011, with a special focus on youth leadership and peacebuilding through football.

Given this opportunity, both organizations started an intense process to build a framework that would maximize the benefits of the exchange, including developing long-term learning processes. Both organizations had the opportunity to go **far beyond the usual program delivery** to establish a learning cooperation that allows long-term and sustainable learning processes at different levels of the organization.

“I’d like to see peace between us and the Jews. I hope that sport can help to solve the problems between us. I would like to study sports and make my contribution towards peace, if the situation hasn’t changed by then.”

Marwa (Palestinian)





The Exchange

The learning exchange included the following components:

- ▶ A preparation phase that developed the exchange framework
- ▶ One week's exchange in Germany
- ▶ One week's exchange in Israel/Palestine
- ▶ Documentation and internalization of the key lessons learned
- ▶ Development and follow-up

Number of participants: 25 | **Age group:** 15-25

Number of participating staff members: 10

Communities: Stuttgart, Germany

Kiryat Gat, Tel-Aviv, Ein Rafa, Israel

Jericho, Hebron, Bethlehem, Palestine

Languages: English, German, Arabic & Hebrew



The Preparation Phase

Having defined the exchange as an opportunity for a framework of cooperative learning, it was clear that KICKFAIR and the Peres Center would undertake all the planning of the exchange through a common process on an equal level. The common planning included the definition of aims, methods, preparation work with youth leaders from each organization in order to make them feel that they are part of the whole process, and the planning of the two exchange weeks in Germany and Israel/Palestine.

The Defined Aims

To create the framework for a knowledge transfer on all levels of the organization, including directors, coaches, coordinators and youth leaders/youngsters.

The knowledge exchange included the following topics:

- ▶ Youth leadership development
- ▶ Education and personal development through football (skill and competency learning)
- ▶ Peacebuilding through football

To create the framework for a knowledge exchange workshop between youth leaders on the topic of youth leadership and peacebuilding.

To enable youth leaders to develop their own workshops and content

To create a framework for youth leaders on both side

To develop a long term learning process in a joint follow-up project

The Defined Methods

Exchange weeks in Germany and Israel/Palestine, including:

- ▶ Workshops for directors and coordinators on the topics of education and personal development through football and youth leadership development.
- ▶ Workshops for youth leaders on the topics of the Football3 concept and being a youth leader, including how to take responsibility for their own project and community.
- ▶ Football tournaments
- ▶ Cultural exchange (food/language/traditions/games)
- ▶ Field and site visits



The Preparation of the Youth Leaders

From the very beginning, youth leaders were part of the development and preparation process. They took responsibility in the content development as well as in the realization of workshops. "Think Global, Do Local" was the defining notion of our exchange. Our main learning focus was to understand the global concepts we share, while defining the modifications needed to work locally. Contents of the workshops delivered by KICKFAIR, as well as the approach design during the workshops, were flexible and open to adjustment and change according to the participants' needs during the process.

The Two Exchange Weeks

The exchange week in Germany (30th June - 7th July 2011)

The exchange week in Germany included several workshops on different levels and active participation in the realization of the KICKFORMORE Festival 2011 in Stuttgart. The festival hosted teams from all over Germany, with guest teams from around the world providing an ideal learning framework for experiencing and understanding the football3 playing method and the active role of youth



leaders in such a process. KICKFAIR youth leaders were mentors for youth leaders from the Peres Center for Peace and Al Quds, involving them in organizational and mediating processes before and after the tournament.

Based on this experience, the workshops on education, personal development through football and youth leadership became much more concrete and clear. The first two workshop days of the exchange focused on getting to know each other and on the preparation of the common tasks for the festival (tournament organizing and mediating). During the festival the youth leaders from Israel and Palestine mediated numerous games and were guided during this process by youth leaders from KICKFAIR. They had the opportunity to practice what they had learned first-hand, reflect on their experiences and get to know the valuable processes in the dialogue-zones of the game.

Building on the Above, Further Workshops Included:

On the staff level - workshops regarding the theory of education and personal development through street football and youth leadership. Peres Center/ Alquds staff learnt from the KICKFAIR experience and later discussed how these concepts can be implemented further in their work in the Middle East. In addition, KICKFAIR were introduced to the Middle East context and peacebuilding concepts of Peres Center/Alquds, and the methods used to overcome challenges in an ongoing conflict zone.

On the youth leaders level, the workshops placed an emphasis on how to become a youth leader in one's own project and community, while focusing on the development of specific life skills. This was led by KICKFAIR's experienced youth leaders. One main subject used for youth leadership development was games. The process included defining an "ideal" game; breaking down a game's structure, content and goal; presenting a game theoretically and practically, and analyzing the game's strengths and weaknesses. Through this process the youth leaders became more aware of developmental concepts such as defining, planning, implementing, presenting, and giving and receiving feedback.

Finally, a common workshop was held for the 'adults' from the organizations, led by the youth leaders, on the topic of development and the results of their common work.



All workshops followed a process-oriented way of working with clearly defined aims, though the methods differed many cases. This allowed an interactive process of learning and allowed the content to vary according to the needs of the participants. For the youth leaders, this opened up a learning process where their inputs were taken seriously and where

they had the opportunity to work on the youth leadership issues that were most important to them, while improving their listening, understanding, and self-expression skills. More than once, workshop content and structure did in fact change, as participants from the Peres Center/Al Quds learnt to express their wants and needs, while KICKFAIR youth leaders carefully observed the challenges the former face in their local reality.

One example of this is Sagiv from Israel, who got the courage to speak up about his need to take a break from one of the workshops and play. Michaela, together

with KICKFAIR youth leaders, suggested a way to incorporate Sagiv's needs into the workshops by adding games as part of the workshop materials. This was then agreed upon by the entire group.

All workshop processes were moderated and facilitated by experienced KICKFAIR staff members in constant consultation with staff members from the Peres Center/Al-Quds.

The Exchange in Israel/Palestine (12th - 18th September 2011)

The second exchange week in Israel built on the learning experiences of this first exchange week. It took place in the Kibbutz of Wahat al Salam/Neve Shalom, meaning 'Oasis of Peace', a model community where 50% Israelis and 50% Palestinians live peacefully together.

Following on from the workshop week in Germany, the exchange in Israel/Palestine aimed to deepen the experiences and knowledge gained from the first exchange week. One main aim in Israel/Palestine was to work very concretely with youth leaders and to make the week a practical learning field for youth leaders of the Peres Center/Al Quds.

On the staff level, while not having as many structured workshops as were delivered in Germany, the participants continued their ongoing learning process through constant discussions, knowledge exchange, site visits and informal meetings.

Formal Learning Frameworks

Starting with a common reflection on the first exchange in Germany, youth leaders from both KICKFAIR and the Peres Center/Al Quds discussed the positive and negative experiences of the week in Germany. Building on this, an open space for discussion was offered to share expectations for the upcoming days. Youth leaders from all participating organizations worked together to draft the workshop contents and make the learning more concrete.



This session resulted in a number of common workshops being outlined on the following topics:

How to take responsibility and ‘make it happen’ **when organizing a tournament for youngsters in the community**. KICKFAIR youth leaders exchanged their years of experience in preparing, organizing and learning from football tournaments in their community – relating to timeframes, structure, areas of responsibility etc. Lessons covered everything from gathering the participants and organizing the equipment, refreshments and pitches, to involving the media and the community. Later, when taking the KICKFAIR experience into the Israeli/Palestinian context, issues raised for discussion included creating a cultural

exchange that will enable the Palestinian and Israeli participants to get to know one another, locating the tournament in a place accessible to both Israelis and Palestinians, and mediating with a language barrier.

Comparing the different methodologies of the football3 method – relating to the common KICKFORMORE football festival experience, and to all youth leaders' different experiences in their relative projects, the KICKFAIR and Peres Center/Al Quds youth leaders exchanged methodologies (on and off the pitch) and discussed their strengths and weaknesses, keeping in mind the possibility of creating a mutual/global method.

Teamer/mediator skills and role and thus youth leader skills and role - For Rotem (Isr), the fact that the mediator in Israel/Palestine had the power to give points was crucial as it gave her a more influential role and she then earned the respect of the teams. Having a slightly different mediator role in Germany, brought up a group discussion on the role of the mediator and their responsibility towards the teams they mediate, and the repercussions for this on the role of a youth leader in one's own life and community. Another discussion was raised when Helga and Michi (Germany) presented their experience as young women mediating a group of older men and surprisingly earning their respect and attention. This showed them the power of a leader, regardless of age, sex, religion, background. Helga and Michi's experience was an example for the Israeli/Palestinian youth leaders – strengthening them as teamers, citizens and human beings.

A common vision of the next steps and a common goal for the future – relying on the many learning experiences the youth leaders shared, common goals were agreed upon on a personal/local level (such as being a role model for younger children), and on the international exchange level (such as creating a platform for communication, developing a common method, and organizing a common tournament).

Informal Learning Opportunities

During the Israeli/Palestinian part of the exchange, a strong emphasis was placed on informal learning – from just 'hanging out' together (as all participants stayed in one residence for the whole exchange), to creating a multi-cultural



meal where each participant brought food from their local culture, to having a social evening sharing different wedding traditions, music, customs and exchanging interesting cultural facts through a trivia game.

Futhermore, KICKFAIR youth leaders spent one night with members of the Israeli youth leaders in their home town of Kiryat Gat, experiencing a religious 'Shabbat' friday dinner ceremony, getting the feel of the local community, and enjoying each others' company.

Finally, the German youth leaders as well as a couple of the Israeli/Palestinian youth leaders participated in site visits held with all staff members in Jerusalem and Bethlehem – both key religious sites for all monotheistic religions, and politically-challenging sites that show the Israeli-Palestinian conflict vividly on every street-corner, especially along the overwhelming Separation Wall.

Learning from formal workshops, in multi-cultural and peaceful surroundings, as well as from informal activities, tours, and experiences, made our second exchange exceptionally fruitful, leaving a strong will for continued mutual work, and a strong base of skills and knowledge to implement it on.

Professional Mutual Experience

The exchange and learning cooperation between KICKFAIR and the Peres Center / Al Quds has been recognized by the Federal German Ministry of Interior and



the International Council of Sport Sciences and Physical Education. Together with the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport and the Israeli Ministry of Regional Cooperation, they organized an international conference entitled 'Sport as a Mediator Between Cultures' held in September at the Wingate Institute in Israel. KICKFAIR and the Peres Center for Peace were invited to this conference to give a practical common workshop and present their common work.

This opportunity led to the development of a workshop relating to Football3 and youth leadership as an educational method and approach, applicable to many different contexts and environments, as was seen through the global exchange. This workshop was further developed at the Laureus Sport for Good Summit, London 2011, providing another practical workshop to participants from all over the world, as well as a theoretical presentation regarding our common approach to youth leadership and peacebuilding.

“The situation is difficult for me. The situation between Jews and Arabs – that we are always fighting and people can’t get along with each other. I can’t bear it because there are people amongst the Arabs whom I really love.”

Rotem (Israeli)





The Key Learnings and Challenges

The key learning from the KICKFAIR Perspective

In international partnerships, youngsters are often confronted with new, unfamiliar, and unexpected situations, which are at first perceived as 'strange' and which, as a rule, are very emotional. Although sometimes unforeseen in advance, we believe these are key learning experiences that will have a meaningful long-lasting impact on the youngsters. Global areas of learning and experience therefore offer a high potential for learning with regard to personal development and the differentiation of various skills.

Institutional Level Learning

- ▶ Discover weak points in own concept of education and youth leadership through football
- ▶ Much higher awareness of the everyday struggle in a conflict area
- ▶ Concept of peacebuilding through football and its value for the work within KICKFAIR projects

Delegation Leader Level Learning

- ▶ Awareness / consciousness to pass responsibility to the youth leaders because of the educational approach and a positive development for the future generation
- ▶ Process-based and professional accompaniment of the youth leaders is very important
- ▶ Qualification of youth leaders is very important in strengthening the youth leaders in their work and to ensure quality
- ▶ To keep in mind the common goal on both sides and not focus on details
- ▶ To include time for social/political understanding in daily work (e.g. by open spaces, common free time)
- ▶ Importance of staying open to new ideas and ways of thinking and to keep developing own concepts of learning and education
- ▶ Process needs time and patience
- ▶ Process has to be integrated in the "normal" project work, raised awareness of finding the correct ways to do so

Youth Leader Level Learning

- ▶ Wider understanding of the different contexts
- ▶ Question the media - "what they tell me is not always true"
- ▶ There are very kind people on both sides (Israel and Palestine) with different ways of dealing with the conflict
- ▶ Breaking down barriers and deal better with intercultural barriers
- ▶ Learning something for their future life
- ▶ Learning moderation skills (i.e. to prepare workshops in a foreign language and try to continue a process)
- ▶ Seeing the conflict between Israel and Palestine in a different way (we understand more about the conflict)
- ▶ Reflect own cultural conditions and compare them to foreign cultures (for

example the Shabbat dinner and discussion of the religious aspects).

- ▶ Transfer international experiences and ideas to local projects
- ▶ Create 'visions' as a common long-term goal
- ▶ Understand the importance of street football for local projects and their participants (the social aspect of football)
- ▶ Compare different methods of street football and try to create an international form of playing
- ▶ Form an international team without prejudices, linguistic problems or bigotry
- ▶ Be a mentor for young people

The Key Learning from The Peres Center for Peace's Perspective:

For the Peres Center for Peace the exchange was the first time we have been able to experience this kind of international exchange program. Not knowing what exactly to expect, we found almost everything to be new and exciting – both as guests in Germany and as hosts in Israel/Palestine, as well as building a system of constant communication before, after and in between visits. Key learning included further theoretical understanding of the KICKFAIR



approach to youth leadership and Football3, a higher understanding of the potential of learning through experience, especially international experience, and a new perspective on the relevance of peacebuilding outside one's specific conflict zone. An in-depth learning process occurred both on a manager and participant level, and we are constantly seeing the fruits of this learning throughout our daily local and international work.

Institutional Level Learning

- ▶ A new process-oriented awareness and knowledge
- ▶ Concept of an educational, process and project oriented approach of youth leadership development
- ▶ A strengthened understanding of the importance of developing youth leadership
- ▶ A heightened awareness of the role of the youth leader as role model, change-maker and active member of our team
- ▶ New and clear perspectives for further development of content and structures in the community projects
- ▶ New and clear perspectives for further development of content and sustainable frameworks for local and international cooperation

Delegation Leader Level Learning

- ▶ A new and heightened awareness of passing responsibilities on to young people
- ▶ A developed concept of how to delegate responsibilities and how to accompany the processes well (quality management)
- ▶ A concept of how to implement process-oriented work in the everyday project work
- ▶ A more complex understanding of the limits of process-oriented work in the Israeli-Palestinian context
- ▶ Importance of staying open to new ideas and ways of thinking and to keep developing own concepts of learning and education
- ▶ Process needs time and patience
- ▶ The understanding that there is no 'ideal' type of youth leader
- ▶ Understanding the project needs but bearing in mind more deeply the personal processes each youth leader is going through.
- ▶ A much more open-minded project leadership, leaving past judgmental approaches behind.



Youth Leader Level Learning

- ▶ Develop a higher sensitivity for cultural differences and share cultural knowledge (language, stereotypes, food, festivals, etc.)
- ▶ Strengthened the peacebuilding between the Israeli and Palestinian participants as they were united by a feeling of togetherness in the context of an international exchange – representing a common project, method, and shared mutual project-experiences.
- ▶ Learn and develop skills for project building and management
- ▶ Learn and exchange knowledge and experience regarding Football3 methodologies and the role of the mediator
- ▶ Develop confidence in personal and group abilities (being encouraged by the experience of KICKFAIR youth leaders)
- ▶ A heightened awareness of international learning possibilities



- ▶ A heightened awareness of opportunities for social impact and change.
- ▶ Develop a common long-term vision of cooperation among youth leaders (inside Israel-Palestine, and on an international level)
- ▶ A strengthened desire and need to take an active role as youth leaders

Main Challenges and Solutions

The Main Challenges that Needed to be Overcome Were:

The language barrier: There were four different languages that had to be dealt with: German, Hebrew, Arabic and English. Most of the young people only speak their mother tongue, and as a result all participants had to find creative ways of communicating in the cases where there was no translator involved. Otherwise, accompanying translators made the communication easier.

Integrating the international exchange: We find that once this becomes a part of the general, local, project work and is no longer considered an ‘on-top’ issue, long-term learning processes are possible.

The distance: In order to manage the long-distance work, the staff needed to relate to the project as a joint common process that includes constant and open communication and reliable relations based on mutual trust. Practically, the problems created by the distance were reduced through the use of new media (Skype, Google share, Dropbox, Facebook).



Cultural differences: The participants had to be open and creative in finding solutions that fit the local contexts. Every project is different and concepts cannot be implemented across the board. Sometimes this is a frustrating process, but at the same time it is a central part of the mutual learning process.

“Making it Happen”: Realizing the project entailed the challenge of funding the new scientifically highly up-to-date approach and convincing stakeholders and donors to invest in such process-oriented project work.

Football doesn't need a lot of language, it's played in the same way all over the world and that's why it works!"

Marcel (German)





Common Targets for The Future and Planned Follow-Ups

This learning partnership is designed as a long lasting partnership. This partnership transfers the project and process-oriented approach, which was initially based in the local environment, into a global area of learning and activity. During the second exchange week in Israel/Palestine, common targets and activities of the international learning partnership were decided upon as follows:

- ▶ Youth leaders will share their experiences with other young people in their organizations (2011)
- ▶ Youth leaders in each organization will work on common documentation (as a common project)
- ▶ Youth leaders of both organizations will take part in a work-experience opportunity – a meaningful period of time doing volunteer work at the parallel organization – Israeli/Palestinian participants will be joining KICKFAIR staff and Germany participants will be joining Peres Center staff
- ▶ Youth leaders of both organizations will work on a common event/ tournament to have in 2012
- ▶ An exchange will take place in Germany in the Summer of 2012

Concrete First Steps:

- ▶ Local groups are to meet each other regularly in local contexts to prepare the local tournament
- ▶ Ways of staying regularly in contact via Skype/ facebook are being developed to keep up the common vision.

On a staff level, based on the experience of delivering mutual workshops and presentations regarding Football3 and youth leadership, we hope to continue to develop this common "product" and believe our professional experience puts us in a position to offer the delivery of this knowledge to other relevant beneficiaries. We have now – and will continue to – systematize our knowledge and experience into working materials and practical workshops that others can learn from and rely on. We believe both our approach / methods and the structure of a global exchange can be relevant to many other organizations around the world who could benefit from our experience.





Annex

Marcel (Germany)

"It was so exciting to meet our friends in Israel again. Some months ago, we started a common process and created ideas. In Israel, we became a bigger team and enhanced our skills with international workshops. Moreover I learnt a lot about global relationships and built a fundament for further projects. I want to continue our trilateral cooperation with international projects and additional exchanges. I took a lot of new impressions back to Germany that I shared with other colleagues here in our project. This is also a very important point for me: all youngsters of a project benefit."

Amira (Palestine)

For me as a Palestinian women from Jericho to participate in a seminar in Germany and Wahat el Salam/Neve Shalom was a once in a lifetime experience. I learnt a lot about myself and my abilities, about other cultures, about leadership and the German society and about "Fair Play". The great cooperation between the Palestinian, Israeli and German youth tremendously helped the fun atmosphere of learning and the fun was part of all the seminar!

In Germany and Israel, I learn a lot on how to become a good mediator, on the different types of mediators and on how to help younger children open up about Fair Play experience. We really connected and I dream of keeping the strong bond between us and our Israeli and German friends.

Personally, my confidence grew and the experience of mediating in an international festival in Germany made me more open for more international cooperations and my skills. Thanks you!!

Michaela (Germany)

"I got to know new people and friends from Palestine and Israel ... and experienced Israel/Palestine in a new dimension. It is on the one hand a very modern, multicultural state but on the other hand intolerant and restrictive ... so I experienced the conflict of this country deeper than I knew it from the media. I learnt that I can hold an Workshop as well in a different language with was very positive for me and my self esteem and I feel proud that I could transfer my experiences to the youth leaders of the Peres Center and the Al quds association."

Rotem (Israel)

"My biggest accomplishment was my self-confidence that grew greatly...I saw this in that I felt equal to everyone, and that...everyone got proper treatment... everyone could say what they felt right and we respected all opinions...this is something I have learnt for life – the confidence, listening, understanding, helping others and working together in cooperation.

Looking to the future, I hope to create more projects I have be a part of, to teach children about Fair Play and the equality between people with mutual respect never mind from what background you come from...and of course to keep in touch, continue learning more new things and to reach peace Amen!"

Helga (Germany)

"I was impressed by the people and the country itself. In the beginning I was really afraid of what to expect and how things will be in Israel/ Palestine, but it was the complete opposite of what I expected. Because in the media they show a totally different image of the situation. Another great experience was the

possibility to go to the families in Kiryat Gat and really experience the people and be part of 'normal' family life and ask them about their life. I learned in the exchange that I shouldn't built up prejudices due to other persons or medias opinions, you should make your own experiences and see what is going on and then built up your own opinion. Now I really value which privileges I have in my country, not need to go to the army, speaking in the language I want to and not having the fear of going to prison. I value my situation much more than I did before. Now I am aware of what it means to live in freedom."

Naje (Palestine)

For me this was an unforgettable experience. I have been an assistant coach in Ein Rafa [Palestinian Village inside Israel] for 4 years now and I love working with kids. This was a first opportunity for me to meet other youth from abroad, especially Germany and take part in a multi-cultural exchange. I learn a lot on being a mediator and on "Fair Play", and mostly on being a leader and taking responsibility for change!

All along I believed in the importance of being a young leader to the kids, but after the seminar I feel more confident and have new ideas on how to do it. My hope for the future is to become better in my abilities and to lead more children with confidence.

We had a lot of fun! The fact that we were learning in a fun environment of games and friendship really helped us be open up, connect and work together!

Sagiv (Israel)

"I had a great time...I learnt to be a better mediator, learnt new games, and earned friends for life from Palestine, Israel and Germany...I will remember this experience of meeting people from all over the world, of having great tournaments and of planning our own tournament that will take place in Israel/Palestine and Germany. On a personal level I hope to be more helpful to others, and to have more meetings with the Arabs so we get to know one another more deeply and connect better and get to know more new people. I was also happy to get to know the guys from Germany, they are smart and know much about Fair Play. I hope to someday be like them and present Fair Play workshops."

Israel/Palestine Exchange							
	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep
		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
7:30-8:30		Arrival in Neve-Shalom - Get together with YL	Workshops - Building a Fair Play Tournament	Presentation of Ideas/work process/conclusions from Workshops	Marcia & Michi & Helga go to Kiryat Gat.		
08:30-09:30		Introductory/Ice Break Games (from Germany)	Workshops continue			Meeting in Jaffa/ Tour of Jerusalem (depending on Progress and needs)	
09:30-10:30		Presentation of exchange in Germany & Expectations for Isr/ Pal part	Workshops continue	Conclusions and thoughts for continuation	Staff meetings in Jaffa		
10:30-12:00		Lunch - Bring your own Cultural food!	Lunch	Leave to Tel-Aviv	Lunch	15:00 - Lunch at Marva's house	
12:00-14:00							
14:00-15:30		Workshops YL- Building a FairPlay Tournament	Workshops Football? Practical work?	PIZZA on the Beach in Jaffa; (16:00 - Presentation at Wingate Institute)	Staff meetings in Jaffa (Including Skype with Carster/Yohen)	Tour of Bethlehem area	
15:30-18:00	afternoon		dinner	Say Goodbye to Isr/Pal YL Staff/German YL - Dinner in TA	Shabbat Dinner	Dinner in TA, Bethlehem	
18:00-19:00		ARRIVAL (18:50)- Get together with Staff - dinner in Tel-Aviv	Social activity (in Neve Shalom)/ Photos from Childhood game!	Staff/German YL - evening out in TA/ Free Evening	Staff - out in TA/Free Evening	Free Evening	
night							Departure (Flight at 15:20)



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 SPORT at The Peres Center for Peace

Design Studio David & Yosef | **Photography** Uriel Sinai (Getty Images), KICKFAIR, Peres Center for Peace

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