

External Studies

Professional Development

The OUI's Unit for Professional Development spearheads educational and technological innovations on behalf of the Israeli education system. During the 2014-2015 school year, the unit provided professional and educational leadership development for professionals in the education system.

This year, there was an expansion of professional development for high ranking, senior teachers and educators in conjunction with *Ofek Hadash*, the national educational reform program. A range of programs were offered to 54 groups throughout Israel, on subjects such as evaluation for the sake of learning, the teacher as innovator, and integrating educational programs. Specific areas of specialization, including digitization, learning disabilities, and children's and students' rights, were also offered.

- Programming has expanded at the **Center for Specialization in Teaching**. Throughout Israel, twenty courses have been offered for training homeroom teachers as mentors. The purpose of these courses is to provide tools and skills for homeroom teachers to support new teachers in a supervisory and advisory capacity.
- Programming was expanded for training leading professionals in **assimilation of the national digitization program**, and was conducted in seventy groups around the country for all population sectors, including Jewish, Arab, Druze and Bedouin.
- Another term of the **Principals' Training Program** was completed in conjunction with the Avney Rosh Institute for School Leadership.
- An advanced course was held for Muslim clergy in cooperation with the Religious Groups Department of the Ministry of the Interior, under the academic leadership of Prof. Mustafa Kabha. The course included subjects relevant to the work of imams, and its purpose was to empower, advance, and enrich participants professionally and personally.
- A two-year certificate studies program was instituted in order to train professionals to provide counseling and guidance to parents of children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. This year, the practicum was offered to parents in Or Yehuda and Givatayim.
- Professional development and continuing education courses and symposia for teachers of science and technology, social sciences, history, Russian, Oral Law and computer science were held throughout the country.

External Studies Center (*Ma'aleh*)

The Center includes six schools: *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *Tafnit*, *Diploma*, *DiAlog* and *Meirav*. Over 27,000 studied in *Ma'aleh* schools in 2014-2015. Widespread programming continued this year in peripheral areas, and cooperation with the ultra-Orthodox sector was expanded. Efforts are underway to open a training center for the Arab population at Givat Haviva.

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Ascolot enrollment figures rose by 5%, to a total of 22,500. *Ascolot* offers a wide range of programs. The Government and Strategy: Intelligence and National Security course has remained a success, taught by Maj. Gen. (ret.) Eitan Ben-Eliahu in Tel Aviv, Ami Ayalon in Haifa, and Tali Lipkin-Shahak in Jerusalem. The Economic Forum course, taught by Sever Plotzker, and the Legal Forum course, taught by Eitan Ben-Eliahu and Yuval Yoez were offered again this year. Courses in the arts continued at Beit Ayala. Over 6,000 students have shown interest in cinema and film, and continue to attend lectures followed by film screenings. A new literature course about S.Y. Agnon was taught this year by the renowned author, Haim Beer. Music programs have continued, with composer-conductor Gil Shohat hosting leading artists in six different courses. Cooperation with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra also continued this year with a pre-concert course. In addition, a new branch was opened in Rishon le-Zion and programming has been extended in Omer and Rehovot.

Hasifa – School of Communication, Television and Multimedia

Hasifa, in partnership with the OUI's Center for Media Studies, offers a variety of study tracks, some of which

grant BA credits. Once again, the school hosted *Jim Jam*, an annual international event which challenges participants to develop a game within 48 hours and publish it on the organization's global website. A series of conferences were also jointly sponsored by *Hasifa* and the Center for Media Studies, as well as end-of-year exhibitions for the computer games section of the visual arts department. A gala evening was held which showcased animated films, documentaries, feature films, and more.

Tafnit – Continuing Education for Managers

The *Tafnit* program continues to expand its activities and accessibility. New content areas were added and courses were updated in accord with market trends and developments in management professions. As in the past, the school offered programs which introduced participants to diverse study options at the OUI, including workshops for new immigrants and lone soldiers. Cooperation continued in the training course for managers currently in professional military service and their families who are members of the *Hever Yeda* organization. An extensive program was opened in conjunction with Bank Leumi for training business owners. The school hosts the OUI Forum for Young Entrepreneurs, which provides an opportunity for young businesspeople to present their work to executives and entrepreneurs throughout Israel.

Diploma – Certificate Studies

Diploma offers a professional training track and preparatory courses for certification exams in a range of fields, including tourism, finance, and design. The Center for Interior Design Studies enables students to include short modules from outside the main track in their studies. Topics included in the program are interior design and planning, furniture design, lighting design, SketchUp, and home styling.

DiAlog – School of Languages

DiAlog offers language courses for the general public at ten study centers around the country. Many soldiers have participated in these courses as part of a cooperative venture between the IDF and the Teacher's Federation Fund for Professional Advancement. Together with *DiAlog*, the *Maftach* organization continued offering basic language and conversational English courses for the ultra-Orthodox community. Extensive courses were offered to the business

community at a number of commercial companies and at the Ministry of Defense. Likewise, the school offers a range of training programs for senior Israeli officials for improvement of English PR and media skills. Private tutorials are offered for senior employees and officers in the Israel Police and for Foreign Ministry representatives. Courses and workshops also take place for senior executives of the Bank of Israel.

Meirav – School of Complementary Medicine

Meirav offers professional training in a wide range of complementary medical fields, as well as courses for personal enrichment and empowerment. The school has continued to expand to new target populations. It reaches over 200,000 professional army personnel and IDF retirees through *Hever Yeda*, offering professional enrichment and training, as well as professional courses on nutritional supplements and therapeutic plants for the Maccabi-Pharm pharmacy chain. Students who have completed two years of studies treat women undergoing drug withdrawal, as well as women recovering from cancer.

Beit Daniel

Throughout 2014–2015, various organizations conducted a variety of programs at Beit Daniel in Zichron Yaakov: musical training and education courses for adult and youth musicians; conferences for academic and administrative OUI departments; conferences and symposia for students from other academic institutions; workshops; professional training sessions; international conferences on current issues; team development for employees and managers; organizational meetings; training organizational coaches and consultants; conferences of social and community organizations; in-service training for teachers; conferences for launching new products; and encounters for creative artists and poets. Once again this year, Beit Daniel welcomed new organizations in addition to the many groups already making use of its buildings and open spaces.

In keeping with its long tradition, this year too, Beit Daniel held three musical weekends under the guidance of Smadar Carmi-Giberman, which were open to the general public. This year, they focused on the works of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. In addition, two Friday morning OUI concerts were held at Beit Daniel.