

(Citizen)

# مواطنة

מְוֹאֲטֵנָה – אזרחית



Thank you

Danke

תודה

شكرا



המרכז היהודי-ערבי  
المركز اليهودي-العربي  
The Jewish-Arab Center

## Classmates For Coexistence

# مواطنة

(citizen) – אזרחית



פרויקט חבר לספסל הלימודים ממומן בנדיבות על ידי קרן בוש, גרמניה

مشروع صديق في مقعد الدراسة مُمول بكل كرم من قبل صندوق روبرت بوش ألمانيا

The Classmates for Coexistence Program is generously supported by Robert Bosch Stiftung, Germany





# THE CLASSMATES FOR COEXISTENCE PROGRAM



The Classmates for Coexistence program is an educational initiative that seeks to bring Arab and Jewish students closer through peer studying, group dialogue and social activities. The project is funded by the Bosch Foundation.

The project itself is all about providing a shared experience, while bringing down barriers between communities. Many of the participants became friends and were encouraged to socialize with each other. As a result, many visited each other's homes, or are planning to do so.

During the meetings, many issues regarding community relations and mutual perceptions of the "other" were raised and debated in a friendly and open manner. While achieving full agreement on every subject is impossible, each participant regarded the other's opinion with respect and empathy.

The program is designed to demonstrate that coexistence founded on pillars of academic excellence, cultural diversity and mutual respect is indeed possible in the Middle East.

Participating students, are paired with fellow students from different communities (Jews, Arabs) and they meet once a week to study together, improve language skills, and exchange thoughts and ideas. For many of these students, the program could be the first meaningful encounter with fellow students from other backgrounds. Program participants will be mentored by other students during the entire academic year.

At the end of the academic year (August 2014), a delegation of outstanding students will travel to Germany and participate in a 20 days Summer School focusing on coexistence, pluralism and tolerance.



Poster about the Program displayed at the 2014 University of Haifa Board of Governors' Meeting



המרכז היהודי-ערבי  
المركز اليهودي-العربي  
The Jewish-Arab Center

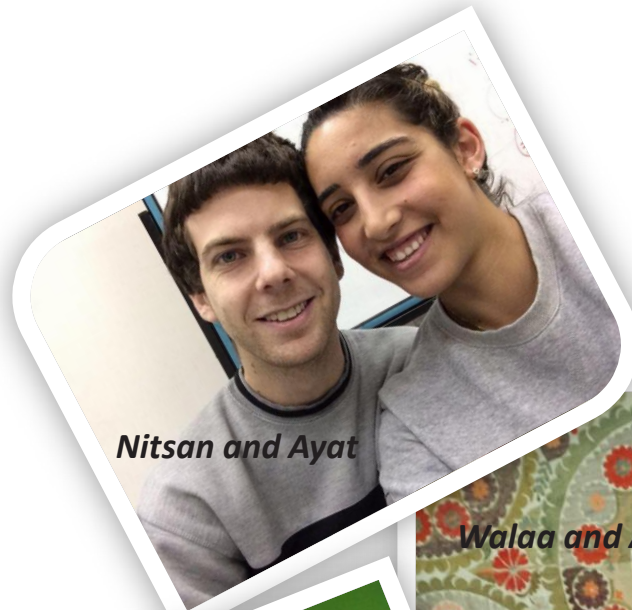
פרויקט חבר לספסל הלימודים ממומן בנדיבות על ידי קרן בוש גרמניה  
مشروع صديق في مقعد الدراسة مُمول بكل كرم من قبل صندوق روبرت بوش ألمانيا  
The Classmates for Coexistence Project is generously supported by  
Robert Bosch Stiftung, Germany

On 29 January 2015 the University of Haifa celebrated the extraordinary *Classmates for Coexistence Program* and all it has achieved by launching an exhibition in the Eshkol Tower lift lobby on the first floor. Every day, as students and faculty pass by these images on their way to their departments, they will see testimonies to the ultimate aims of the program - the respect that is possible between people of different communities when the opportunity for them to work and study together is provided.

Robert Bosch Stiftung, in cooperation with the German Friends of the University of Haifa, has made this unique initiative possible with its generous support. We are deeply grateful for this generosity. By helping students study and cooperate together it has planted the seeds of tolerance and empathy, and genuine relationships between friends. The pages that follow give you a taste of the exhibition and the program itself, for which you have our heartfelt gratitude.

Robert Bosch Stiftung





**Nitsan and Ayat**



**Adi and Roquaia**



**Walaa and Anna**



**Ahlam and Anastasia**



**Elli and Fadi**



**Osnat and Hanin**

In *Classmates for Coexistence*, participating students are paired with fellow students from different communities (Jews, Arabs) who meet once a week to study together, improve language skills, and also exchange thoughts and ideas in free and open discussion. They are also mentored by other students during the entire year. For many this could be the first meaningful encounter with those from 'other' backgrounds. Pictured are some of the participant pairs.



(above) *Classmates for Coexistence* participants with Prof. Rassem Khamaisi at the exhibition.

(below) Staff and participants listen to speakers at the launch.







(above) Group participants with the Mayor of Erfurt and Prof. Dr. Birgit Schäßler, Erfurt University's Chair of West Asian History who hosted the visit, at Erfurt Town Hall;  
 (middle left ) Fadi and Ghassem with some of the German students at the group visit to a synagogue; and  
 (middle right) the group visit to a mosque;  
 (bottom right, left) group activities, with the German students, on topics like communication and empathy.



Classmates for Coexistence Exhibition Poster

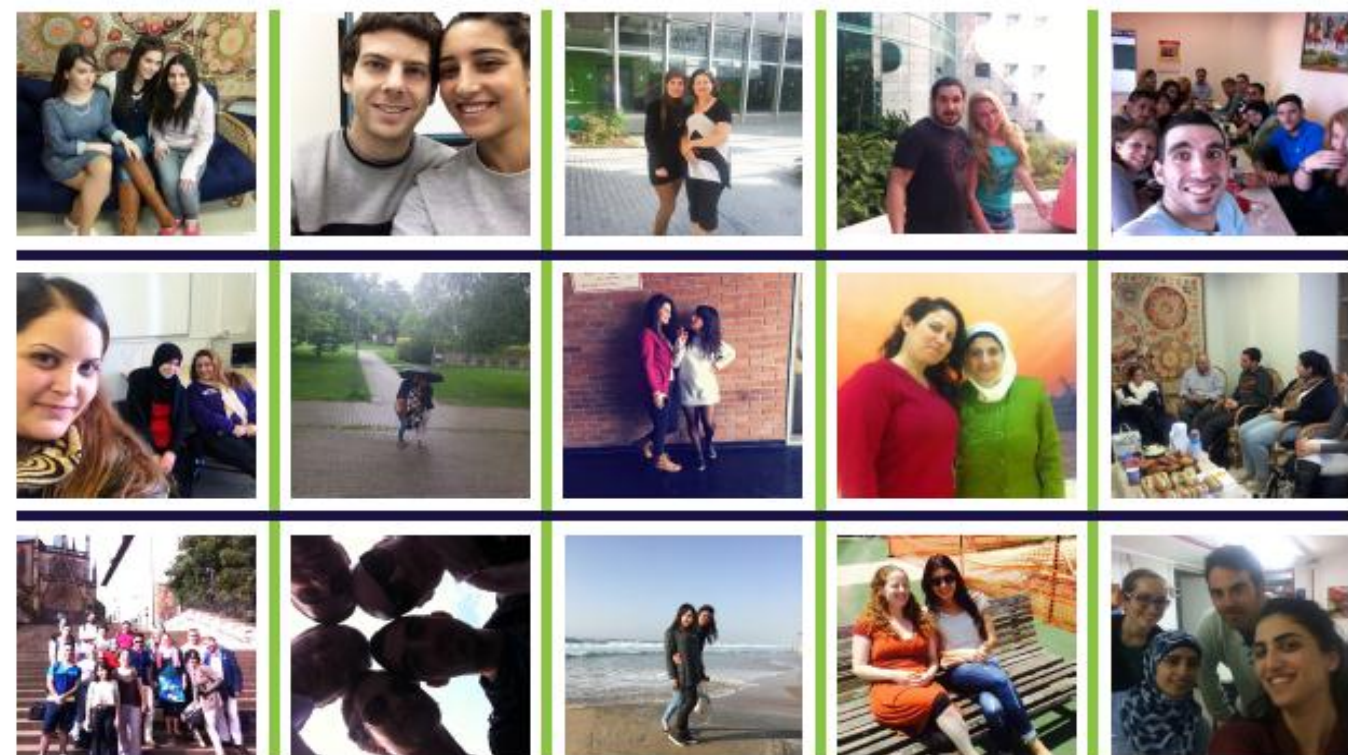
Launch date 29 January 2015

כתיחת תערוכת צילומים במסגרת כרויקט  
 "חבר לספסל הלימודים"  
 افتتاح معرض صور لمشروع  
 "زميل في مقعد الدراسة"

# חבר לספסל הלימודים زميل في مقعد الدراسة

ברכות:  
 פרופ' ראסם חמאסי, ראש המרכז היהודי-ערבי  
 פרופ' שרון פוליאקין, ראש בית הספר לאמנויות  
 סטודנטים המשתתפים בכרויקט

ברכות:  
 פרופ' ראסם חמאסי, ראש המרכז היהודי-ערבי  
 פרופ' שרון פוליאקין, ראש בית הספר לאמנויות  
 סטודנטים המשתתפים בכרויקט



יום חמישי, ט בשבט, תשע"ה, 29.01.15, שעה 11:30, קומה 1 במבואה למעליות מגדל אשכול

יום חמישי, 29.01.15, الساعة 11:30, طابق 1 برج اشكول

בתערוכה יוצג הכרויקט "דרך השמה" של קבוצת פרהסיה, בהשתתפות תלמידי הקורס "שמה זהות ותרבות" מבית ספר לאמנויות, אוניברסיטת חיפה, בהנחייתן של אסנת בר אור ומנאר חזעבי

سيعرض في المعرض مشروع "غير اللغة" لمجموعة برهيسيا بمشاركة طلاب المساق «لغة، هوية وثقافة» التابع لمدرسة الفنون في جامعة حيفا، بتوجيه أساتذات بار أور ومناز زعبي



The exhibition was launched by Prof. Rassem Khamaisi, Director of the Jewish Arab Center and Prof. Sharon Poliakine, Head of the School of the Arts, whose students designed the exhibition, and the participants themselves who spoke very personally about their own experiences of the program. In one display, a 'wall of language' lined the corridor, with words in Arabic, Hebrew and sometimes German, which had come up in group activities such as 'sorry', 'I will listen' and 'citizen'.

صلعة [sala'a]  
Glatze  
קרחת [karachat]

Cocktail  
קוקטייל [kokteil]  
بالعكس  
im Gegenteil  
אני  
אני  
לב  
לב



(above left) Program mentors Ghassem and Rony share an anecdote with Prof. Rassem Khamaisi;

(above right) participant Roquaia talks about how her perspectives were changed during the program;

(left) participant Fadi talks about his impressions; and

(right) the 'wall of language' that students and staff pass every day.



The University of Erfurt Summer School 'Multiculturalism and Coexistence' was one of the highlights of the program. (above) A newspaper article about the visit appeared in the Erfurt local paper. The trip was filled with eye-opening experiences and activities, but most of all it allowed participants to interact freely and form relationships. The summer school coincided with Operation Protective Edge in July 2014. Like many Jews and Arabs, some had relatives or friends who lived in Gaza, and others relatives or friends in the IDF fighting there - so it was a tense period. Yet, with open discussion and a superb welcome from Erfurt, the group was able to bond and form real relationships on a personal level. (below) The group pictured in Germany with Prof. Khamaisi.

