

Feedback on Yad Vashem Seminar 2013

The Yad Vashem seminar was a unique experience for me. I had the opportunity to improve my historical knowledge on holocaust issues and be aware of appropriate methodological applications concerning teaching it in the classroom.

I liked the lectures more than the workshops, but only because personally I prefer theoretical than practical approaches on such issues.

From my point of view, the seminar was too rich and overloaded to be realised only in a week. We needed more time to absorb all information given...

Educator from Central Greece

Taking part in this particular seminar was a unique experience for me as a teacher. An experience which I intend to share not only with my friends and colleagues but with my pupils as well.

The seminar was excellent organized as far as it concerns Yad Vashem and also the Jewish Museum. The ladies from the Jewish Museum, Mrs Treveza and Mrs Kostis, that accompanied us in Israel, were always willing to help us in whatever we needed.

Educator from Central Greece

... I was pleased that the training programme, among others, contained a lot of information about the Greek Jewish community and I learnt things I didn't know of local interest. Also, I appreciated the books and resources they gave us for free. I would prefer to learn a bit more about contemporary Judaism's traditions (celebrations, customs etc). On the other hand, the intensity of the programme made it exhausting some times. Plus, it didn't provide space for visiting the rest of the Yad Vashem sites and museums. The overall organization was good and the girls Vicky and Orietta were kind and helpful. It would be useful though if someone knew more of the city life of Jerusalem (buses, ATMS, markets).

Overall, it was an exciting experience and I would definitely recommend it to my fellow teachers.

Educator from Central Greece

The seminar is built upon three significant pillars pedagogical, experiential, academic, therefore the academic component indicates elements of the culture and the forms of life of Jewish people in the prewar, interwar and postwar period. Also the unique educational context in Yad Vashem introduces sufficiently parts of the extensive and manifold history of the Antisemitism. Moreover the frame of the Holocaust Studies reports the terms and the conditions of the nazistic horror as the Final Solution,

illuminates simultaneously the Dark Side of the Human and approaching the horrendous incident of the Holocaust through sides of sciences as Theology, Sociology, e.t.c.

The pedagogical axis provide with the tools to decoding the above context in to suitable pedagogical material, and the experiential component presents the living testimony of the Holocaust "martyrs" based on optional workshops and vital approximations.

Emphasis added to the scientific appearance of Ophir Yarden, Dr.Rafi Vago, proff. Yehuda Bauer, proff.Eyal Naveh and the distinguished and adequately contribution of all the educators in Yad Vashem.

Particularly reference occurs to the supervision, sufficient teaching and certainly the politeness of Yiftach Meiri.

Conclusively the seminar was more than a learning experience...that could not be achieved without the cooperation and the excellent contribution of mrs Treveza and mrs Kosti direct, substantial, gentleness assistance and educational support.

Educator from Western Greece

The seminar that was held by the International Studies department of Yad Vashem in cooperation with the Jewish Museum of Athens was very well organized and really interesting. Even though the everyday schedule was sometimes very tight, most of the workshops or lectures attended by us, were very well prepared by the organizers, who tried to cover in one week all the basic aspects of the Holocaust.

In my personal opinion, there should be rather more workshops than lectures because by interaction everyone can learn more easily than only by listening to a speech. The most amazing part of the seminar was the guide at Yad Vashem's museum and the testimony of the survivor Artemis Miron. Having in front of you a survivor can make you approach the things with a more sensitive aspect, as you become in a way witness of someone's life.

We were given plenty of ideas and material of how to present and implement Holocaust in class and how to work with our students. Opinions and suggestions of the other colleagues seemed to be also very useful.

Organization of the part of Jewish Museum of Athens was truly fantastic. Victoria Kosti and Orietta Treveza were really helpful, always there to participate and share their knowledge with the rest of us and very caring and supporting to every issue that came up.

I feel very honored and privileged that I was given the chance to participate to this seminar and I do hope that soon all this knowledge that I received will be introduced in my classroom.

Educator from Southern Aegean Region

After having completed the course at Yad Vashem I would like to make the following remarks: As far as the academic part is concerned, the sessions were very interesting, the lecturers well prepared and capable of transmitting the theoretical knowledge as well as of organizing practical workshops. The discussions and cooperation in groups provided the chance

for a continuous feedback and the visit of the sights and the museums in Yad Vashem contributed to the assimilation of the theoretical part. Moreover, I assess that all the training staff did their best to cover the topic of the Holocaust and the ways of teaching it in the schools.

Mr. Yiftach Meiri was a very good group leader and coordinator as well as an excellent instructor. I particularly appreciated the lectures of Mr. Ophir Yarden on the Judaism, Dr. Rafi Vago on the 19th century anti-Semitism, the workshop organized by Mr. Meiri entitled "The Jewish street in Poland" and the testimony of Ms. Artemis Meron.

As far as the pedagogical material is concerned, we were offered useful books and DVDs and had the chance to purchase extra material from the Yad Vashem shop. The social/cultural part of the seminar was also significant. The excursion in Tel Aviv was nice and the Old City tour of Jerusalem was very interesting....In my opinion, the seminar was successful and the goals were attained at a very high degree..... Personally, I broadened my knowledge on the Holocaust and acquired more tools for continuing my work in teaching the Holocaust in the secondary education as well as guiding my teachers in dealing with it.....

Educator from Northern Greece

.... All lectures introduce us into the topic adding information that we knew little about in Greece, such as the ghettos in Poland, anti-Semitism, pre-war social and political scene etc. The workshop provided us with useful pedagogical tools that combined the theoretical parts with actual exercises easily applied into the Greek classrooms, even into L2 (second language acquisition) classrooms. Our group leaders, Orietta Treveza and Vicky Kosti supported us in every way they could throughout the trip and the seminar, as well as Yiftach Meiri, who injected his enthusiasm into us and taught us that education gives the meaning of Shoah.

I hope that many teachers will have the same opportunity in the future as it has been a unique and life-changing experience, which I urge everyone to live.

Educator from Central Greece

.... It was an unique and remarkable experience for me and it fulfilled my expectations. Everything was perfectly organized and executed. Mr Yiftah Meiri was very helpful, polite and totally aware about the subject. The seminar was a combination of education and touring at the monuments, museums, memorials of Holocaust. It gave me so much material (testimonies, videos, films, books, activities) about Holocaust that I can use it for more than two years in my classroom. Artemis' Meron live testimony is something unforgettable. It touched me so deep in my heart that at the end I was crying. It proved that nobody and nothing can beat human will.

I have to notice only one negative point at the whole seminar. There was no connection between the theory and the act. The lectures were theoretical

but not practical. It should be more useful for me as a teacher to visit us an Israeli teacher and explain us with examples the way he is teaching Holocaust at his students.

Educator from Central Greece

I feel very fortunate to attend the seminar organized for Greek teachers in the International School of Yad Vashem. I had the chance to learn, see, feel and explore a lot of things.

First of all, it was a very well-organized seminar with interesting lectures and workshops. It gave me a lot of material to implement in the classroom and ideas to handle such a delicate issue with my students. The organizers, both the organizers in Yad Vashem and the representatives from the Jewish Museum from Greece were very polite and helpful. All the lectures covered a large area of topics, not only about Holocaust but also about many things that I did not know, that helped me have an overall view about Jews of the past and modern life. In addition, visiting the museums, the whole campus in Yad Vashem and listening the memories of a survivor of the Holocaust had a very strong impact on me. At last, I think that the tours organized both in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem gave me a vivid and impressive image of these contemporary cities.

Returning back to my school, I will try to implement the teaching materials and the ideas I gained from the seminar in my classroom. I also intend to write an extent report about the seminar and post it on the school website, in order to give information to other colleagues about the seminar and share my experience gained from this training activity. So, the teachers of my school or other local schools could learn more things or discuss about this extremely significant and unique topic of the Holocaust. I also intend to organize a celebration memory for my pupils on the 27th of January (the remembrance day of the Holocaust), in order to discuss afterwards in small groups and possibly motivate them to feel the empathy required in every society, especially nowadays when social phenomena like racism and violence are topical again in our country.

Educator from Peloponnese

.... This seminar was very well organised, interesting and enlightening. Most of my questions about the Holocaust where answered and I also discovered several creative ways to teach it in classroom. I found the lectures, the speakers and Mr Yiftach Meiri very accurate and always willing to answer to our questions or suggest books and references for further research. What impressed me the most was the speach of Artemis de Meron, a Greek Jewish survivor from Ioannina. Not only was she extraordinary strong and kind, despite her 84 years, but also her use of Greek language was excellent, although she lives in Jerousalem since 1948. I enjoyed very much the two

movies we saw and I also found very informative and revealing the lecture and discussion about the Israeli - Palaistinian conflict.

I have to state though, that although I watched all lectures, activities and tours with great interest, I found the schedule quite tight. The Holocaust is a topic which has a strong effect not only in mind but also in emotions, so maybe we needed more time between lectures, so as to rest and absorb what we learned.

Apart from the hours we spent in Yad Vashem, I also enjoyed the tours in Tel Aviv and in Jerousalem. Especially the tour in Jerousalem, was very important to me, being Greek and Christian, since we visited areas which are considered as holly for Christianity. In this way you showed great respect to our culture, which was a fact that really touched me and I do appreciate it. Apart from all these, the hotel was luxurious and the food most tasty and bountiful.

I enjoyed the company of the other Greek teachers who attended the seminar, since they were interesting, pleasant and open minded. Mrs Vicky Kosti and Mrs Orietta Treveza were very kind, patient, tactful, understanding, helpful when needed and I would like to thank them once again for their support.

To sum up, this seminar was an unforgettable experience and I would definitely recommend it to me colleagues.

Educator from Central Greece

It was a great opportunity for me to attend with other teachers all over Greece the seminar organized for teachers in the International School of Yad Vashem, especially nowadays when social phenomena like racism and violence are topical again in our country.

First of all, I strongly believe that it was a very well-organized seminar with a lot of extremely interesting lectures and workshops. The organizers were very polite and helpful (especially Mr. Yiftach Meiri) and we managed to cover a large area of topics. To be more specific I would say that the lecture about Judaism was something totally new for me. Also, the presentation and the discussion about “the everyday life in Warsaw ghetto” was very interesting. The last day we were lucky to meet a survivor of the Holocaust who lived in Greece and have a very vivid aspect of the jewish history before, during and after the World War II. At last, I think that the tours organized both to the Yad Vashem historical museum and the campus were very touching for every member of the group.

Returning back to my school I intend to share my experience gained from this training activity and disseminate the teaching materials I curried from Israel. So, the teachers of my school or other local schools could learn more

things or discuss about this extremely significant and unique topic of the Holocaust. I also intend to make a relevant presentation to my pupils during the 27th of January (the remembrance day of the Holocaust), in order to discuss afterwards in small groups and possibly motivate them to feel the empathy required in every society. I strongly believe that I could persuade my colleagues to attend, if possible, the same seminar in the future.

Educator from Peloponnese