

Participants' feedback on the seminar, 3-10/7/2019

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the Jewish Museum of Athens for giving to me the opportunity to be a part of the seminar held at Yad Vashem from 3rd to 10th July 2019. I was very lucky to be chosen and be educated about teaching the Holocaust to students of all ages, meeting new people and getting in touch with the new teaching approaches as far as this sensitive issue is concerned.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the fact that the seminar was perfectly organized. Personally, I learned a lot of new things about the history of Jewish people, about their religion and their way of life. In addition, I was deeply touched by the personal stories of the people that lived the dramatic period of the Holocaust and in particular, I was overwhelmed by the testimony of a survivor that visited us and presented his experience. The lectures were really informative and the guide in the Museum of Holocaust permitted to me to have a complete knowledge of history of Jews' persecution. Furthermore, the various workshops offered me great ideas about teaching the Holocaust to my students.

Finally, the cultural excursions organized in Masada, Jerusalem and Dead Sea were important for us in order to shape a solid aspect of the land of Israel and its people. I must not omit to mention that I felt very safe during the whole seminar. I will definitely recommend it to my colleagues.

Thank you very much for this unique experience.

Educator from Athens.

During Yad Vashem seminar I had the chance to experience an interdisciplinary approach to the teaching of the Holocaust. I'm quite satisfied with many aspects of the seminar like lectures, workshops, tours and meeting survivals. I expanded my knowledge of methods in teaching Holocaust, I met colleagues and discussed varied issues. As trainees, we continue to share thoughts through web platforms that we made. The Yad Vashem tutors provided us with educational materials and taught us how to use other sources in teaching (internet, media, books etc). Generally, the seminar met my expectations although it felt sometimes that there was too much information packed in six days.

Educator from Thessaloniki.

YAD VASHEM seminar is a valuable experience which every single teacher or educator dealing with history education should live, at least once during his/her carrier. The most important advantages: educational projects rich in teaching materials and ideas, well studied, constructed and implemented teaching methodology, historiographical and theoretical approaches, innovative and imaginative museological studies, constant conversation between past and present. What makes the approach of YAD VASHEM unique is its dedication to the human being and his/her values –the human being not as a vague entity, but as

individual with name, face, thoughts and feelings. Almost every single item or word in the facilities and the open-air memorials serves this notion. Finally, the most significant advantage for the Greek educators is the change opportunity to exchange views with the experts of YAD VASHEM, as well with each other.

Educator from Kavala.

I would like to thank the Jewish Museum of Greece and the Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies for selecting me to participate in the seminar for Greek educators in July 2019 in Jerusalem.

Apart from being well-organized, the seminar was extremely interesting as it helped me deepen my knowledge of the Israeli people and the Holocaust. Every presentation and each lecturer had to add something new, something different, but always something exciting to the understanding of the Jewish culture and the need to commemorate this inhumane period in the history of mankind. I was deeply moved by Prof. Daniel Gold, the Holocaust survivor who gave a gripping and detailed testimony of his memories as a child that had lived this dreadful event.

Also, the premises of Yad Vashem were breathtaking, especially the Historical Museum, the Children's Memorial and the path of the Righteous among the Nations. Lastly, I would have to mention the guided tours through the old city of Jerusalem, Massada and the Dead Sea, which were a unique experience. All in all, it was a journey I will never forget, since it has made richer both as a person and as a teacher.

With my sincere wish that no human being ever experiences such a horror again,

Educator from Athens.

Participating in the July 2019 was an excellent experience!

The organization impeccable, the lectures original and thought-provoking, the speakers and the coordinator friendly and willing to help in every way, the Yad Vashem complex simply impressive, the guided tours around Jerusalem very instructive and the visit to Masada and the Dead Sea breathtaking.

The duration of the seminar was ideal to meet the purpose of the programme as well as to give the participants a good taste of the history, the culture and the everyday life of the people of Israel.

Educator from Serres

My participation in the YAD VASHEM seminar is one of the most beautiful moments in my life. The knowledge I gained expanded the existing ones but was enriched with new ones. The organizers are amazing; they generously offered their knowledge and experiences. The helpful people who came to share their experiences with us were real teachers. The audiovisual material is very well organized and enlightening. An honor that I met a survivor. The guides knew their subject perfectly and delivered their knowledge to us in the most excellent way. My dream of visiting the Holy Places was accomplished through my participation in the YAD

VASHEM Foundation seminar. The museum is a place of learning and experience, these people know very well what they are doing and transmit it in the most beautiful way

I want to thank the YAD VASHEM European section of the museum and, in particular, our astonishing teacher and helper in this trip, the unique Mr. Or, ready to help us and serve us at all times. Certainly none of this would have happened without the help of the courtesy and convenience of the Jewish Museum of Athens. Thank you very much.

Educator from Veria

Seminar for Educators from Greece July 3-10. 2019

The seminar in YAD VASHEM was a pleasant and unique experience. Or Goren, who was responsible for the Greek team, managed to create a happy atmosphere. The relationship with the others was very good. Through lectures, touring and workshops, I managed to obtain new knowledge, fill out gaps and correct some wrong perceptions that I had and, in the end, to have a spherical idea. Now, more confident than before, I feel ready to pass all my knowledge to my students.

Educator from Thessaloniki.

My experience in Yad Vashem has been more than positive. The lectures and the workshops were really interesting, the lecturers were exceptionally knowledgeable and the interaction among the members of the group was high. The mere campus of Yad Vashem was a source of knowledge and feelings, with the very interesting Museum of the Holocaust, the exhibitions of Photography and Art of the Holocaust, and the various monuments around the huge campus which we had the chance to visit. The tours to Masada and the Dead Sea as well as our guided visit to the Old City of Jerusalem helped me deepen my understanding of the country and the culture of Israel. The provisions of Yad Vashem in terms of accommodation, food and transportation were excellent and our communication with the Or Goren, the person in charge whenever we needed her help in order to move around independently was more than effective. I think that the attendance of this seminar has helped me gain a more complete and deep knowledge of the Holocaust and of the ways we should approach it educationally and at the same time an adequate insight in the culture and way of thinking of modern Israeli people. I really feel thankful for this unique experience which I highly recommend to all Greek educators!

Educator from Itea.

When one hears of a seminar, boring lectures immediately come to mind! It was a wonderful surprise that the seminar at Yad Vashem combined education and holidays at the same time! The lectures were extremely interesting and offered an insight to Judaism and Jewish culture that were necessary to fill in the gaps to my historical background. Moreover, the group of 28

completely different people, formed into a team that was willing to co-operate and share experiences. The tours both at the Yad Vashem and around Israel were exceptional!

Personally, I had the chance to connect with my family history! It came as a great and moving surprise that my grandfather, one of the Righteous Among Nations, is regarded and celebrated as a hero half way around the globe!

I hope to attend more seminars in the future.

Educator from Kozani

Going through my notes from Yad Vashem and my stay in Israel I realise how well-structured and well-thought was the seminar, the whole approach of relating to Holocaust/Shoah and its centrality in the lives of humans-back then and today.

The emergence of human beings as real “faces” vs oblivion, obliteration, defaced beings, was striking and ever-present. It was a multi-faceted, nuanced process striving to depict the complexity of relations and behaviours of people acting as “actors”-taking decisions- under such extreme conditions.

And here, today steps in. It is not finished... Coming to grips with this particular historical awareness also imparts a sense of continuity. We are driven to rethink our roots as humans and citizens of democracy, since to me democracy and Holocaust are interlinked and interrelated. It is about us and all who are interested to live together, co-exist as humans.

Final overview impression of my experience: Human beings out there in the streets, flocking the market places, leading a life, enjoying their individuality, plunging into real being.

Educator from Athens

The seminar was very well organized and provided a rich audiovisual material for teaching, illuminating many aspects of the Holocaust unknown to us. The rapporteurs were always eager to share their knowledge, while the workshops were interactive and there was interest from all of us for active participation.

The only negative point I would note is that some days the program was very loaded with 3 lectures and 2 workshops, which created a fatigue that limited the assimilation of new knowledge.

In any case, it was a unique and very rewarding experience personally and professionally speaking.

Educator from Athens