

International Course:



STATE OF ISRAEL

Professional Development for In-Service Teachers

November 24-December 16, 2015



Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The A. Ofri International
Training Center

MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International Development
Cooperation

invite professionals
to participate in the aforesaid training course

Background

“Who dares to teach must never cease to learn”

John Cotton Dana

The modern technological world is constantly changing and evolving. Things happen almost too quickly to assimilate, one development is rapidly superseded by another, and channels of communication have become ultra-fast. Our offspring are growing up in a world of sophisticated and constantly-improving technologies, including the web, iphones, e-learning, and distance education. These circumstances demand that the educational system must continually seek ways to keep up to date with current trends and methods in order to ensure that it meets pupil needs.

Over the past 25 years, criticism of teachers and teacher education has intensified in many developed countries around the world. While this negative assessment initially targeted pre-service teacher education, the past decade has witnessed an increasing attack on the continuing lifelong education of teachers. Motivated by a desire to enhance the knowledge and skills of teachers on the one hand and improve student achievement and scores on the other, the Israeli education system is currently seeking to decentralize, modernize, upgrade, and raise the quality of the teaching/learning system in the light of global and regional changes. Within this context, teachers are encouraged to view themselves as facing new challenges—with the help of innovative forms of in-service training.

2003 saw the introduction of one of the major aspects of this program—the establishment of “PISGA” centers designed to provide instruction for practicing teachers, “PISGA” in Hebrew meaning “mountain top” or “peak”. The course offered by the Ofri International Training Center in this regard presents an integrated program for primary and secondary schools teachers. With the aim of developing knowledge, introducing new practical ideas, and garnering experience, it is based on professional growth, hands-on experience, and exposure to materials and methodological tools, combined with reflection on the learning experience process.

In these days in which students are called “New Millennium Learners” and are exposed to a different and challenging environment, the Educational System must perceive the Professional Development of their Teachers as a main field in which to invest.

Aims

- To promote professional development teaching in such a way as to prepare personnel for the future in a systematic yet flexible manner
- To train future-oriented pre-service and in-service teaching staff to meet the needs of the urban education environment 5, 10, and 20 years down the road
- To transform the Teaching Development Center into a proactive, innovation-based organization
- To facilitate progressive thinking, leading to educational breakthroughs
- To prototype, develop, and implement new teaching paradigms, methods, and tools
- To create a lively, warm, and stimulating professional home for teaching staff

-To provide space, context, process, and incentive for an ongoing community-wide conversation concerning education in general and teaching-staff development in particular

-To encourage relevant stakeholders—including teachers, parents, the business sector, senior citizens, artists, municipal officeholders, and children themselves—to play an active role in creating a better education system

Main Subjects

- Presentation of diverse forms of in-service training and methods of adaptation to changes occurring in the education system

- Exposition of the latest concepts, methods, and tools in educational-staff training

- Analysis of different modules for in-service teacher training and defined training goals

- Training facilitators to support teachers in the field

- Curriculum design based on developmentally-appropriate practices

- Design of integrative teaching/learning units

- Elaboration on additional resources for self-development and enrichment

- Examination of the educator's role as school leader, including discussions regarding teamwork and formulation of school visions

- Exercises for motivating and empowering teachers: self-reliance, self-learning, and self-evaluation

- Networking with teachers and educators in order to enhance knowledge, broaden views, and generate ideas

- Analysis of the place and role of educational staff in national development

- Frameworks and methods for using the internet and ICT in education

Methodology

- Lectures and discussions led by experts

- Workshops

- Analysis of educational planning through written material and professional visits

- Meetings with institutional administrators

- Exposure to projects at the national and regional level

- Simulations, panel discussions, and group work

- Preparation of final projects by individuals or groups, based on the professional interests of participants

- Study tours: Schools, educational centers (including science and art centers), universities, teacher training institutions, and pedagogical resource centers

Application Requirements

Target population

- High-level educational staff, at the regional or national level, dealing with teacher development.
- School principals, teachers or supervisors.
- Lecturers at teacher training institutions.
- Researchers in relevant fields.

Application forms should be sent to the relevant Israeli Mission and to the Ofri Center by or before **13.10.2015**

Application forms

Application forms and other information may be obtained at the nearest Israeli mission and at Israel's Foreign Ministry's website: <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il/MFA/mashav/Courses/Pages/default.aspx>.

Completed application forms, including the medical form, should be sent to the relevant Israeli mission in the respective country.

General Information

Arrival and Departure

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Arrival date: | 23/11/15 |
| Opening date: | 24/11/15 |
| Closing date: | 16/12/15 |
| Departure date: | 17/12/15 |

Location and Accommodations

MASHAV awards a limited number of scholarships. The scholarship covers the cost of the training program including lectures and field visits, full board accommodation in double rooms, health insurance (see below) and transfers to and from the airport. The scholarship does not include air fares and per diem.

Health Services

Medical insurance covers medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. It does not cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, specific medications taken by the participant on a regular basis, dental care, eyeglasses, or the period of pregnancy. Health authorities recommend that visitors to Israel make sure they have been inoculated against tetanus in the last ten years. Subject to the full binding policy conditions.

PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OTHER EXPENSES.

The course will be held at **The A. Ofri International Training Center**, situated **in the Ramat Rachel Hotel, Jerusalem** Participants will be hosted at **the Ramat Rachel Hotel double rooms**.

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation is dedicated to providing developing countries with the best of Israel’s experience in development and planning. As a member of the family of nations, The State of Israel is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to contribute to the fight against poverty and to the global efforts to achieve sustainable development. MASHAV, representing Israel and its people, focuses its efforts on capacity building, sharing relevant expertise accumulated during Israel’s own development experience to empower governments, communities and individuals to improve their own lives. MASHAV’s approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, and is taking active part in the international community’s process of shaping the Post-2015 Agenda, to define the new set of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MASHAV’s activities focus primarily on areas in which Israel has a competitive advantage, including agriculture and rural development; water resources management; micro-enterprise development; community development; medicine and public health, empowerment of women and education. Professional programs are based on a “train the trainers” approach to institutional and human capacity building, and are conducted both in Israel and abroad. Project development is supported by the seconding of short and long-term experts, as well as on-site interventions. Since its establishment, MASHAV has promoted the centrality of human resource enrichment and institutional capacity building in the development process – an approach which has attained global consensus.

<http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

<https://www.facebook.com/MASHAVisrael>

About the A. Ofri International Training Center

The A. Ofri International Training Center was established in 1989 as a professional extension of MASHAV - Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation. The activities are targeted to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations to be fulfilled by the year 2015.

The Center's vision is that education is the starting point for a person to build himself/herself a gate to new possibilities. Education is the key to a better future and shields against physical harm and confronts moral dilemmas. Education enables us to ask for proper healthcare when needed, and the way to stay healthy and adopt responsible behavior with our bodies. Education is sharing, learning and growing up together with others. Through education we can learn to take better care of our world, treat it respectfully and use wisely the resources it offers us.

Education concerns itself with learning at all levels, from elementary and secondary school through adult education, and provides knowledge and training for basic skills development, civic awareness, community education, education for special populations, treatment for youth (Including those at risk), youth integration, youth leadership, education for health and the prevention of drugs abuse.

Since its inception, the A. Ofri Center has trained thousands of professionals from countries throughout the world. The Center cooperates with senior staff in the Israeli Ministry of Education, academic experts, governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. In addition, it communicates and cooperates with key international organizations such as UNESCO, OECD, USAID, UNODC, OAS, IOM and the World Bank.

In adopting the UN’s Millennium Development Goals, the A. Ofri Center contributes to the sustainable development of human resources internationally, based on knowledge and experience accumulated in Israel.

<http://www.ofri.org.il/>

<https://www.facebook.com/OfriCenter>

For further information, please contact:

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