



## "Seminar on Special Education 21/5 - 14/6/2012

The millennium goals, set by the UN, changed significantly the perception of many social development processes. The development of each and every country is based on the education of its people, and the education is based on the development of the country. The highest responsibility of each school is to provide education and teaching of high quality for all the students. In the case of Special Education, the subjects do not need to be changed, but a program should be tailored for each student, as well as the teaching methods should, in order to enhance his/her strengths and help him/her to overcome the difficulties. The Millennium Goals also promote the Inclusive Education, which means that students with special needs should be placed (when it is possible) in "regular schools" instead of segregate institutions, in order to empower the child with special needs to be an active part of the society. It also teaches the "regular students" to understand what the needs of their peers with different impairments are; it fosters to equality, respect and solidarity.

Under the title "Special Education and Inclusive Education" we can find a variety of theories, system and ways of working, depending on the needs of the people who are included in these programs. The goal of the course is to introduce the educators to the ways Israel copes with the subject and to the different ideas and ways of working with students with special needs.

It treats the concepts "Special Education and Inclusive Education, as well as the difference between the terms "disabled people" and "people with special needs". The course aimed to empower the participants as role models for their students, as something that requires specific seniority, experience, leadership, full understanding of the subject and training.

In the process of planning the course we considered the newest and most accurate contents and processes going on in the Israeli Educational System as well on International aspects..

### Aims of the Course

- To introduce the participants to the Division of Special Education guidelines; to different theories, approaches and technologies, such as Self Advocacy, Sexual Education for people with special needs;
- To introduce the different activities and programs that different schools (inclusive and segregate) have for students with special needs
- To provide tools for equitable and quality education



- To provide tools and guidelines for curricular development this means to use the National Core Curriculum and adapt it to each student's abilities and difficulties;
- To advance teaching methods for specific subject-matters (science, language, etc.), as well as interdisciplinary subject areas, tailored specifically for each student in the special education system
- To provide guidelines for establishing pedagogical resource centers, regionally and locally, for teacher training and support
- Enabling participants to choose the methods and tools suitable to the particular needs of their environments
- To provide a base for future activities according to the needs of the different realities;

## Course Content

- Presentation of the policies established by the Division of Special Education in the State of Israel
- New angles on the concepts "Special Education" and "Person with Special Needs" (in contrast with "disabled person").
- Presentation of the different sub-divisions in the special education, such as education for visually impaired, hearing impaired, autistics, mental impaired, etc.
- Presentation of the policies regarding to early detection and placement of the people with special needs in the proper institution for him/her, within the frame of the Division of Special Education
- Learning to design a curriculum based on good practices from the perspective of development.
- Presenting methods and activities which empower the student with special needs to speak out for himself (Self advocacy)
- Practices to motivate and empower teachers to improve teaching skills:
  1. Self confidence, self-learning and self-assessment
  2. Teaching skills and tools to implement the curriculum
  3. Establishing contacts with other teachers and educators to increase awareness and expand the ideas and opinions
- Analysis of the role and place of educational personnel in national awareness of the subject and against discrimination
- Knowing new frameworks and methods for using the Internet as a database of information and also as an interface for working with the students with special needs
- Allowing creative thinking to be part of the day to day work- as an attitude and as a tool of work.



## Methodology

The Ofri International Training Center has developed a unique, holistic approach that takes into consideration the emotional and creative aspects of the pedagogical process. Its working methods enable program participants to make practical use of theoretical knowledge.

- Lectures and discussions led by experts.
- Workshops.
- Analysis of educational planning through written material and professional visits.
- Meetings with institutional administrators and acquaintance with projects at the national and regional levels.
- Simulations, panel discussions, and group work.
- Preparation of final projects by individuals or groups.
- Study tours at schools, educational centers, universities, teacher training institutions and pedagogical resource centers.

## Certificate

A Certificate of Studies will be awarded to participants who have attended classes regularly and fulfilled all requirements.

## Application forms should be send to the relevant Israeli Mission and to the Ofri Center by or before 18.4.2012

Application forms and other information may obtain at the nearest Israeli mission and at MASHAV's website: <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il> (in Contact Us → Information and Registration).

## Accommodation

Participants will stay at the Ramat-Rachel Hotel, located on the outskirts of Jerusalem, on a **two person per room** basis. For more information: <http://www.ramatrachel.co.il>.



### Social Activities

Participants are requested to bring traditional clothing that represent their country for cultural and folklore presentations during the workshop. If the participants wish, they may bring souvenirs from their countries to present to other participants.

### Medical Insurance

MASHAV will cover medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. **It does not cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, dental care, eye glasses, and the period of pregnancy or specific medication taken by the participant on a regular basis.** Health forms must be completed and signed by a physician. The insurance policy **does not** cover damage or loss of personal belongings.

### Flights, Passport and Visas:

The scholarship given by MASHAV **does not** include the cost of the flight ticket to Israel and/or from Israel. We highly recommend booking your arrival for the day before the beginning of the seminar, and your departure for the day after the seminar ends. Passports must be valid for the duration of the entire seminar, and must include an **entry visa** to Israel.

**Two additional passport-size photographs** for various documents are required.

**Should you plan to visit or transit via other countries while on your way to and from Israel, please arrange visas before leaving home, as there is no possibility of receiving visas in Israel.**

### TRANSPORTATION

**Traveling from the airport to the A. Ofri International Training Center, Ramat- Rachel, Jerusalem:**

**At the exit, on the left side, take TAXI NESHER Service to JERUSALEM (it's a shuttle, not private cab), to the Ramat Rachel**



Hotel, located in Kibbutz Ramat-Rachel. The cost is 55- Shekels.  
Keep receipts in order to be reimbursed.



## *MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation*

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs .

MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs.

MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts .



## *The A. Ofri International Training Center A Window to Innovations in Education*

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.

Yudith Rosenthal  
Director of the Center