

Alumni Destination Survey

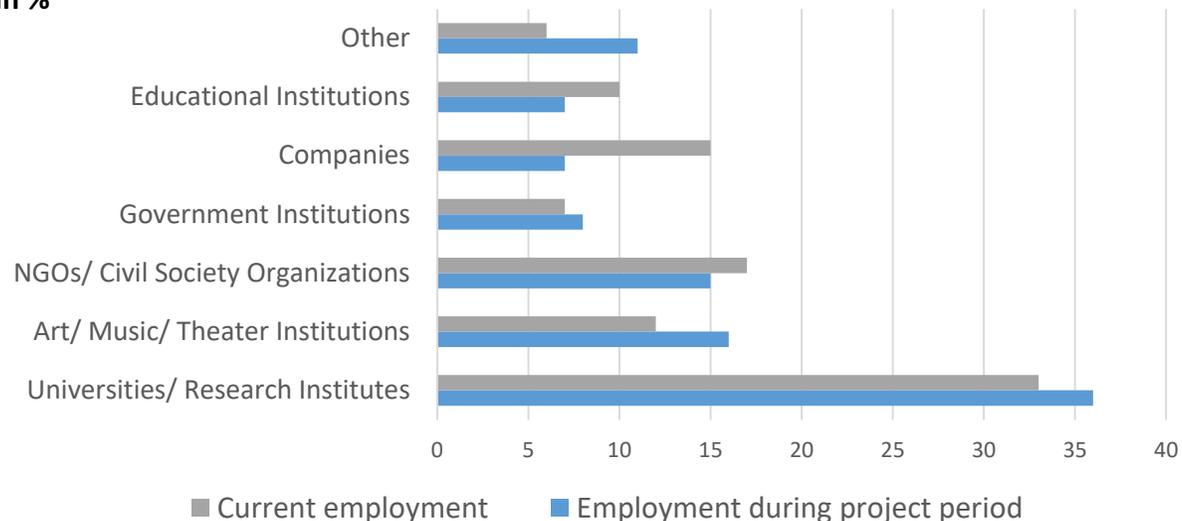


June 2017

Survey Participants:

The survey was filled out by alumni of 50 different projects funded by the German-Israeli Future Forum Foundation between 2009 and 2017. The vast majority of survey participants lived in Berlin (47%) and Tel Aviv (37%). The average age of survey participants was 37.9 years (40% of the alumni were in their 30s and 24% in their 20s).

Places of employment/study in %



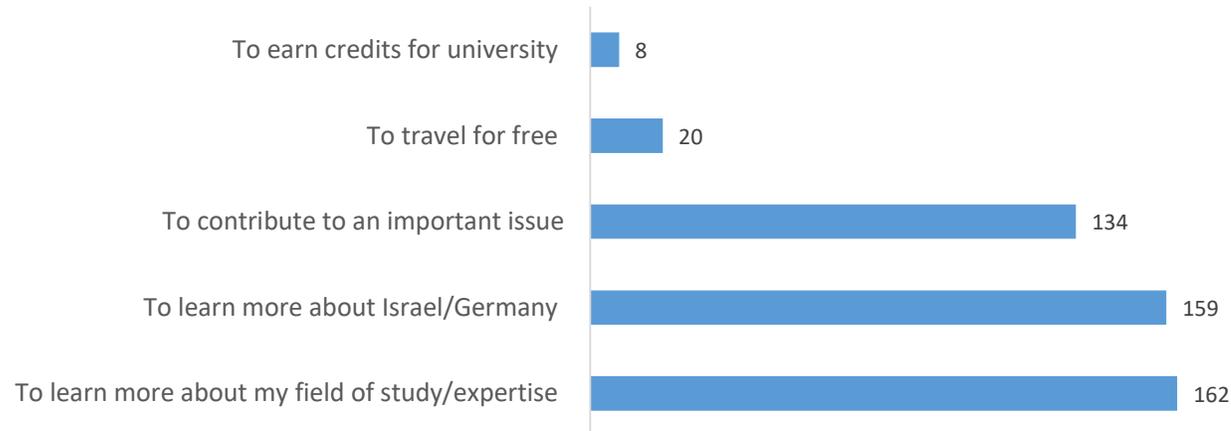
In their current professional position, 37% of the survey participants are involved in German-Israeli activities.

51,5% of the participants returned to the other country since the end of their Future Forum project. Of those that did return, 8% relocated permanently, 38% returned once and 54% came back several times.

68% are in frequent contact with Israelis/Germans and 91% of those have met these contacts through the Future Forum project they participated in.

Participating in the Future Forum project

Why did you join the German-Israeli project supported by the Future Forum? (Multiple answers possible)



In addition to the choices given, 27 survey participants mentioned networking or knowledge exchange as a reason for joining the project.

44% of them had already been to the other country several times, 17% had been there once and 39% had never been to the other country when they joined the project.

What did you learn about Israelis/Germans during the project?

The most common answer referred to the **similarities** between the two groups, with many pointing out their surprise at this discovery. Germans especially pointed out the **complexity of Israeli society** and politics. Many Israelis described their surprise and appreciation of the **Germans' approach to their own history**. As evident in the many answers addressing this issue, history still plays an important part in German-Israeli relations, also on the personal level. Both sides perceived the other as **open**.

"I will certainly look for Israeli partners for future projects."

"I was exposed to a more complex picture of German reality and German history."

"People look for space to talk about the presence of the past – and if there is no such space in the formal program they search substitutes."

"I was very much inspired by the open and profound dialogue."

"I was especially impressed by how they completely separated us from the crimes that were committed in the Third Reich after it became clear that that was an important issue for us as well and that we also really cared about it."

„We have a lot in common and much to learn from each other."

"Both cultures are very much enthusiastic to innovate and create a better world."

"In Israel, what they all have in common, is their great hospitality."

"Young Germans are much more informal and easy-going than I believed."

"Our experiences and appraisals are more similar than I thought before."

"We should always remember the past but look towards the future."

"German society is very diverse."

"Things are much more complex than we think they are."

"Artists of any nationality have almost the same set of values and speak in similar terms."

What did you learn about Israeli-German cooperation during the project?

Many participants agreed that Israelis and Germans can **learn a lot from each other**. They pointed to **different approaches and methods** that complement each other. Some noted that it is difficult to get Israeli funding for cooperation projects. Many showed interest in further cooperations in various fields. **Common problems** and an **interest in solving them** were emphasized. Most thought German-Israeli **cooperation worked very well** – and some seemed surprised by this fact.

“This is a truly special cooperation that goes far beyond dealing with the demons of the past.”

“Many ‘myths’ were proven wrong for both sides.”

„There is no substitute for direct and sincere academic and social cooperation between students.“

“There is still room for further projects.”

“German punctuality and Israeli spontaneity are a great mixture that is a positive influence for the other side.”

“We complete each other in many ways.”

“It is less complicated than I thought.”

“Productive, interesting, fun.”

“Israelis and Germans cooperate with an open attitude and sincere exchange of views.”

“Cooperation needs time.”

“There is a lot of good will and interest between both sides.”

“It remains a challenging but at the same time enriching process.”

“The atmosphere was very warm and friendly.”

“You have to be patient and stay open to other ways of organizing things.”

“Unfortunately, alumni do not get enough opportunities to work in the field of Israeli-German relations.”

“I’m not sure if we share work ethics or just mutual curiosity, something just seems to click and work well.”

What difficulties did you experience during the project, if any?

34% of the participants said they **did not experience any difficulties**. The most common difficulties related to language and other **communication problems**, brought up by 10%. 7%, mainly Germans, mentioned the **political situation in Israel** and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. 5% pointed to **funding-related problems**.

„The feeling that people don't talk about important issues because it's uncomfortable.“

“I felt that the perspectives of Arabs and Non-Jewish Israelis had been sometimes marginalized.”

“I felt there was not much space for uncertainties or deviations from an underlying opinion of how to think of the Israeli-German relationship.”

“The overall goal was not clear.”

“It was challenging to bring up sensitive issues.”

“Not enough time.”

“Coping with different ways to work, bureaucracy and time management was very stressful.”

“Israeli and German participants came with fundamentally different expectations about the 'outcome' of the project.”

“Entering the country was a shocking experience to me because of the very unfriendly interview.”

“Face to face is highly important.”

“In the beginning, it was not easy for me to hear the German language.”

“The different expectations regarding professional interaction, punctuality, dresscode.”

“Some speakers were politically too one-sided.”

“I found it a bit hard to organize communication.”

“Artificial 'group meetings' gave 5% of the productivity.”

“Too much talking, too little actions.”

What surprised you positively about the project?

The most common positive impression referred to the **openness and friendliness of participants** to share ideas and collaborate on a **mutual common ground** and shared interest. Many mentioned creating **long lasting relationships**, beyond the project. In addition, **gaining knowledge about the project and the other country** was brought up frequently, while some participants mentioned the professional benefits of **the intercultural experience**.

“I was positively surprised with the generous financial support directed to participating in a German language school.”

“I like Germans.”

“Discussion culture and hands-on mentality.”

“The chance to have really open discussions and to form long-term friendships.”

“The diversity of people.”

“The openness of Israeli students to talk about Palestine.”

“How open-minded most people in Tel Aviv are.”

“It still is one of the biggest things in my life! It is now almost 7 years ago, but we are still all in contact, friends, the project connected us on a deep level.”

“Willingness to learn and know the other.”

“The opportunity to meet people pursuing similar activities, subjects and goals as myself, but from completely different backgrounds and places.”

“The chance to have really open discussions and to form long-term friendships.”

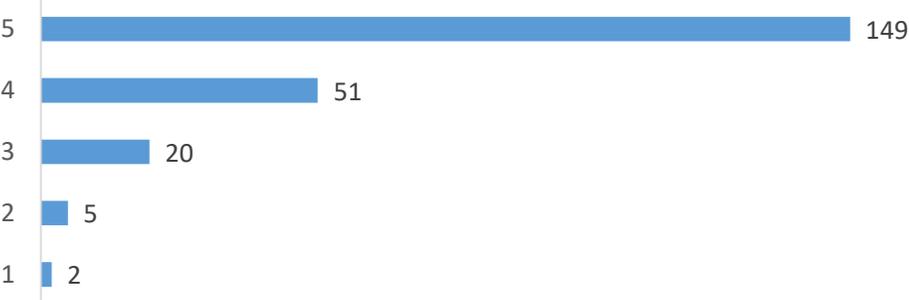
“To look forward to the present and the future and the Germans as having a fascinating, interesting, rich culture and learn from them and enrich myself from their knowledge.”

“I liked the positivity and the energy of the people working with the refugees in Tel Aviv. Their conviction of doing something right was very inspirational. I really do appreciate their work and motivation.”

“I discovered Berlin and began to love and enjoy her. Before the film I did not want to go there and I was angry at the Germans. And I learned a lot about the people there, I found myself connecting more and judging less.”

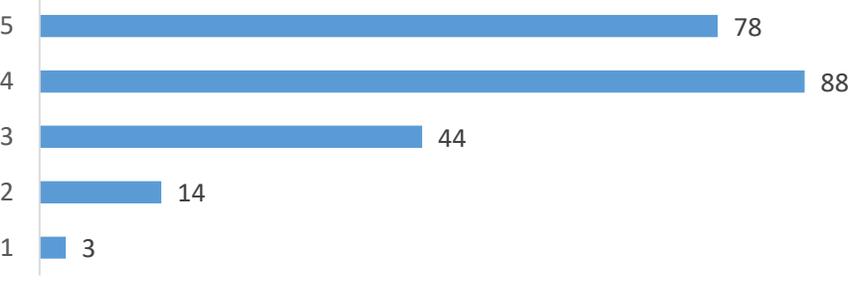
“the continuation of exchange far beyond the end of the project.”

On a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being not beneficial at all and 5 being very beneficial, how beneficial was the project to you *personally*?



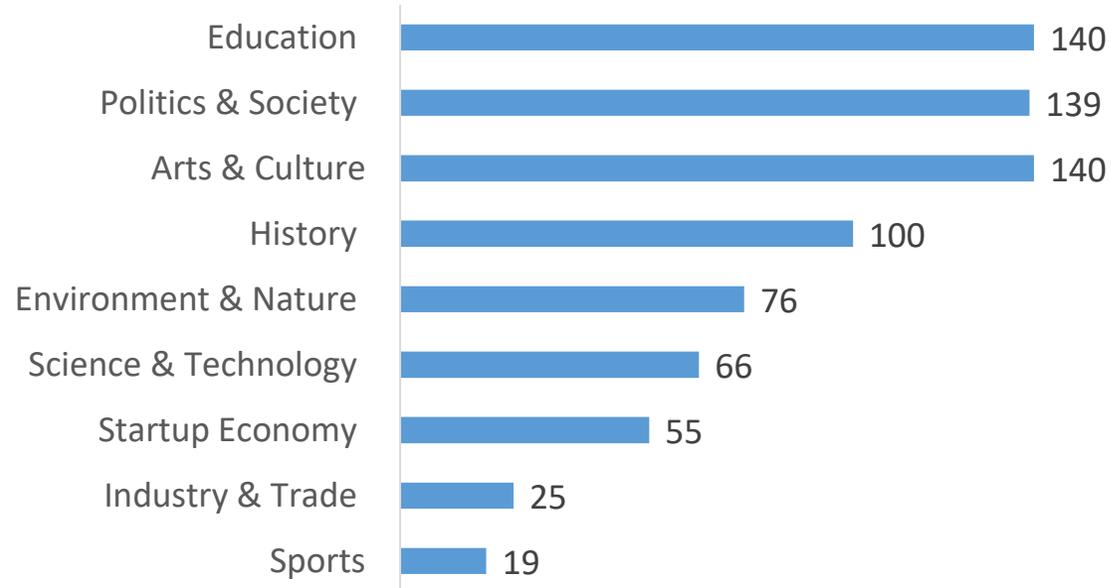
Average Grade: 4.5

On a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being not beneficial at all and 5 being very beneficial, how beneficial was the project to you *professionally*?



Average Grade: 4.0

What fields of cooperation should an Israeli-German cooperation address to be interesting to you? (Multiple answers possible)



Other fields of cooperation mentioned several times by participants included religion, social work, refugees & migration, social rights & social change

97% of the participants are interested to be active in German-Israeli cooperation in the future.