

Israel Perspective

The Israel ASP network was founded in 1963 by Dr. Esther Lucas, and the Rishonim High School in Herzliya was the first to join the Net. At a later stage, it was joined by Gymnasia Haivrit in Jerusalem, Ha'Yovel High School in Herzliya, Kiryat Yearim Elementary School in Ramat Hasharon, Ben Zvi Junior High School in Kfar Sava, and the Hadassim Boarding School. In those days, activities chiefly took the form of correspondence with schools throughout the world. With the addition, to the Network in the late eighties, of Bet Berl College, Kaye College in Beersheva, Bet Berl's Jewish-Arab Institute and Tira Junior High School membership reached ten educational establishments. That period marked the commencement of an experimental project between an Arab school (Tira) and a Jewish school (Ben-Zvi), which has continued up to the present and which has become a key element of the school education

program. In 2002 the Ben Zvi Tira project was proposed as candidate for the UNESCO Peace Prize. In 2001-2003 the "multiplier effect" took place and the Ministry of Education organized 40 Jewish and Arab schools that followed the model of the first Jewish & Arab twin schools. In 1989, the first Israel seminar for Associated Schools took place at Hadassim Boarding School.

The First European Conference for National Coordinators of Associated Schools was held in Bet Berl College in 1996. This conference was an international success and provided the Israeli network with renewed momentum.

At the 1996 conference it was decided to double the size of the network, and subsequently two colleges (Gordon College in Haifa and Lewinsky College in Ramat Aviv), four schools from Baka el Garbiya, Comprehensive

Het from Rishon le Zion, Alon Junior High School in Holon, the Peace School in Givat Haviva, and Neve Shalom Elementary School in Neve Shalom joined our ranks.

Between 1997-1999, a series of three international summer camps (Givat Haviva 1997, Nuremberg, 1998, Bet Jala, 1999) were organized, bringing together teachers and students from Germany, Israel and the Palestinian Authority to deal with issues of sustainable development, ecological and human rights issues. Israeli Groups also visited Berlin (1998), Saarbrücken (Germany) (1999) and the Paris Youth Parliament (1999), France (2000) Germany (2003).

In 1999 the Israel Global Village Competition was organized. A peace education curriculum planning group was also set up at the second Conference of National Coordinators

for the European Region, held in Spain in 1999. The conference adopted two ideas for a strategic and action plan for the next five years: the Global Village and a Peace Education Course at Bet Berl, which was the first of its kind by granting accreditation and serving as the network's flagship project internationally.

In 2001 a very successful seminar on multicultural education in teacher's training was held in Beit Berl. It paved the way to the foundation of a UNESCO chair in Beit Berl and an international task force.

During the 2002 international conference on "The Role of Teachers as Social Agents", the Israel ASP schools presented papers and hosted the second meeting of the international task force on multi cultural education for peace.