

Primary Findings: January 2011 Research Report The Szold Institute

The International School for Holocaust Studies
Yad Vashem

www.yadvashem.org



Research Framework

Aim:

Measuring the long-term effects of Yad Vashem seminars on educators

Time period:

Teachers were contacted 12-18 months following their seminar at Yad Vashem, between 2009-2010.

Method:

Online questionnaires

Phone interviews



Topics Examined among the Participants

- 1) Effects of the seminar on personal interest in the subject of the Holocaust
- 2) Effects of the seminar on pedagogy
- 3) Expectation for future programs



Target Audience and Responses

Target audience:

20 European countries

40% response rate, 303 responses (out of 794 forms sent)

Breakdown of responses:

Poland – 30%

Germany – 18%

Spain – 7%

U.K. – 4%

Austria – 4%



Languages and Occupation

Languages:

English, German, Spanish, Czech, Polish

Occupation:

70% -- Teachers

30% -- Supervisors, advisors, museum personnel, academic lecturers, etc.



Breakdown of Participants

76% work in Educational Institutions (Elementary – University)

Of which:

44% teach in high schools

24% teach middle schools

7% teach in elementary schools

2% teach at universities

15% general audience

6% teacher-training staff



Effects on Personal Interest

Percentage who answered that the following “have increased”:

- 77.6% talked about the Holocaust with friends or family members
- 63.5% explored the web for information about the Holocaust
- 58.4% read articles about the Holocaust
- 50.9% read books about the Holocaust



Effects on Pedagogy

- **93.2% transmitted the educational principles of Yad Vashem to other educators**
- **81.7% focused on personal stories while teaching**
- **75.9% visited the Yad Vashem website to look for ideas, pictures, information**
- **75.3% focused on Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust**
- **70.9% prepared a learning unit based on the pedagogical principles of YV**



Effects on Pedagogy

- **77% used Yad Vashem materials**
- **68.1% helped other educators to prepare projects**
- **62.2% carried out project with students**
- **60.7% adapted Yad Vashem's age-appropriate approach**
- **50.4% initiated a course or workshop about the Holocaust**



Difficulties in Teaching the Holocaust

- 28.2% - lack of educational policy / subject not in teaching curriculum / lack of time
- 14.7% - public atmosphere: antisemitism, prejudice, ignorance of topic
- 12.7% - resistance by students or parents
- 11.7% - no difficulty



Interest in Future Cooperation with Yad Vashem

- 69% plan to conduct follow-up seminar in their countries
- 64% plan to develop educational material in their respective language
- 64% plan to bring students to a seminar at Yad Vashem
- 54% plan to participate online academic courses
- 50% plan to attend periodical videoconferences



Recommendations

- **Emphasize “dialogic teaching”, so that participants will present teaching materials, followed by discussion**
- **Take into consideration the prior knowledge of seminar participants in planning programs**
- **Include lesson plans and projects prepared by participants within the framework of seminars**



Recommendations

- **Create an online forum for commenting on educational materials**
- **Form sub-groups for seminar participants of different professional backgrounds (specifically on pedagogical issues)**
- **Organize seminars for educational policy makers**
- **Maintain active contact with seminar graduates**

