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