

KaosPilots Outpost 2009

Israel & Palestine

Pilots for Kaos

We are entering new times and new landscapes. Modern society is chaotic and needs people who are able to navigate in the chaos. KaosPilots belong to a new generation; they are curious and creative young people with the ability to lead, to start new businesses and to add value thinking to society's many agendas.

KaosPilots

The KaosPilots is a school that attracts the creative outsider. KaosPilots demand much of themselves and life in general. They are entrepreneurial young adults with their hearts in the right place, individuals who want to make a positive difference in the world. Team 1 of the KaosPilots Netherlands consists of 13 students with 13 different backgrounds from 7 different countries. Our education is based on the idea that we learn from doing. We learn in the real world, doing real projects for real clients. In our first one-and-a half-year we have worked with Red Bull, De Baak, Tendris, Ordina, City of Rotterdam, i-Genius, Tsunami-Network, Phillips, Channel 4 and others.

The KaosPilots mission is to be the best school *for* the world.

International project design

The fourth semester of the education is "international project design" and includes a three months "outpost". During the outpost the team will be relocated to another place in the world. In the outpost the student specializes his/her knowledge on project design, creation of organizations and understanding of cultures.

We, Team 1 from KaosPilots Rotterdam, will leave end of March 2009 to work and learn in Israel and Palestine. We will be working with "Windows for Peace", developing and testing a model for community building.

The project

Windows – Channels for communication (Windows for Peace), is developing a training program for under-privileged communities called "Under the Tree Community Center". This project is based on the assumption that in any community, whether it's a remote village, a refugee camp or a poor neighborhood in a big city, there is a tree, (or if it is in the desert – a place with some shade), an old woman or man that likes to tell stories and many children who like to hear stories. The second assumption is that in any community there are a few women with inner strength that can learn how to bring together those elements into an organized activity for the society.

This is to say that any community in the world can do a lot more for itself according to its own needs and based on its own resources if the members develop responsibility and

commitment towards their own community and willingness to volunteer for it or exchange time and work between its members instead of money that is scarce in such communities.

The program will empower the participating women to take a leadership role in their communities by leading them through a process of growth while developing programs for the community with the help of their trainers.

The women will be trained as the leading team of a local voluntary based community center. In the training program they will be empowered to believe in their abilities, become more independent and develop a team spirit. They will learn how to:

- Assess the needs of the community
- Make work plans and budgets; planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- Identify the local resources (from the garbage in the streets that can be used to create an art work through finding empty spaces that can be used to work in)
- Approach people in and outside the community for resources
- Train volunteers
- Create an atmosphere of positive change in the community
- Various skills that are needed for the implementation of the above.

The goals of the project are:

- To learn first hand about the situation in the Middle East from both sides of the conflict
- To empower local communities by teaching skills for social change work according to the needs and resources of each community.
- To create net works between the local communities and European communities
- To disseminate in Europe the information obtained and new perceptions.
- To support local NGOs by volunteering in their programs.

The objectives of the project are:

- Empowering local groups of activists to initiate local change programs by:
 1. New energy to the local community brought by the feeling of solidarity and support of the visitors.
 2. Acquired skills of creative thinking, assessment of needs, tools of development and monitoring, facilitation, documentation, computer, fund raising and so on that can be used after the visit is over.
 3. Experience in running a project following the project that will be done together by the visitors and the local team.
 4. Assessment of the needs and resources of the community that can serve future projects
 5. Mechanism for running projects that will be built together by visitors and local group and will remain in the community for further use.
 6. Connections with Europe.

Role of the KaosPilots

In a complex society like Israel and Palestine are, there is a need for another approach than the traditional. The systemic way of thinking might be the right approach. Learning from what emerges from the future rather than what we know from the past helps us to create the best possible methods for tomorrow. KaosPilots are trained to participate, listen, adapt and sense what is really needed in a complex situation. This is what our role will be during the Outpost. To participate in the communities, research the needs and already existing resources.

The work plan

1. For a better understanding of the context we will have a week full of lectures. From local trainers we will receive classes on cultural understanding, theatre tools, historical background, media ethics, community building and personal and group coaching.
2. After this week we will dive into the Windows for Peace organization and make a blueprint for the pilot.
3. We will then run the pilot first in the area of Ramallah, in small groups of students and in different communities.
4. After adapting the blueprint we will spread out over Israel and Palestine and apply the lessons learned in other areas connected to the specific needs of the communities.
5. Our last activity will be to evaluate our activities with the organizations that we worked with. We will do this through a sacred passage, a method developed by John Milton. With all people that have been involved in our project we will spend two days in the Negev desert in isolation before coming back in the group to share our lessons learnt.
6. From their feedback we will develop a tool for Windows for Peace that they will continue to use in their programs.

Our goal is to increase the impact of Windows for Peace in the two countries, contribute with our facilitation methods and leave a sustainable product behind that can be implemented by others afterwards.

The project of the outpost will be extensively evaluated and examined in school and the learning will be shared with Windows for Peace.

Sustainability

Just recently friends of Windows, Jews, Muslims and Christians from the Netherlands founded Windows for Peace Holland. There are big concerns in the city about the impact of the turmoil in the Middle East on the citizens of Netherlands. As soon as there are problems in Israel and Palestine, fights break out here in Holland as well. The aim of setting up Windows for Peace Netherlands is to raise support for the activities of Windows for peace in the Middle East and also to implement the methods and tools of Windows here in the Netherlands, creating more understanding and respect between communities and especially youth. KaosPilots is joining this new initiative and will be involved in the execution of the methods and tools here in the Netherlands after the Outpost. This way the impact of our work and learning is not limited to the three months that we work in Israel and Palestine but will have a positive impact on the Dutch society

as well.

Windows for Peace

Windows for Peace is a non-profit, joint organization of Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territories. Windows' believes that both Palestinians and Jews have the right to live as equals with equal and comprehensive human rights. Established in 1991, Windows promotes acquaintance, and understanding between both peoples, as well as empowerment of the youth with whom we work through educational and cultural programs, media and art. Windows was established based on the conviction that educating the next generation, our children, plays a vital role in working for a just and lasting peace. To advance the process of reconciliation in our region, it is important to understand and internalize democratic values and human rights and to deepen mutual knowledge of the other. We further these goals mainly through media-related educational programs. The organization is not affiliated with any political party and we do not offer political solutions.

Windows for Peace began their activities with the publishing of Windows, a Hebrew and Arabic magazine that is written by and for Jewish and Palestinian youth ages 12-15. Over the years, this project has expanded to include a video project for teens ages 15 and 16 and a youth leadership program for 17 and 18-year olds. The magazine is primarily distributed through an in-school program, which seeks to utilize Windows magazine, in addition to a variety of other media, in order to explore multiple perspectives of the conflict. Also, the organization regularly produces exhibitions of Palestinian and Israeli art. In addition to these programs, the Windows friendship center in Tel Aviv offers a wide range of activities including lectures, meetings, films, exhibitions, tours, spoken Arabic courses and more, to a wide audience of all ages and from both nations. Windows also collects and distributes food, clothing, and other household items to people living in both the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and to Israelis in need. In order to further reduce the physical suffering of the population, Windows supports projects for economic sustainability in the OPT.

It is no simple task for Israeli and Palestinian youth to overcome the vast amount of misinformation and stereotypes they are taught about one another. The limited availability for interaction, a result of living in mostly segregated communities and exacerbated by the ongoing violent political conflict, perpetuates the historical fears, prejudice, and hatred that divide the two peoples. Windows is therefore dedicated to fostering large-scale change in the way Israeli and Palestinian youth see themselves, "the other" and the conflict. Participants in Windows programs go through experiences that promote conflict transformation between both peoples, towards a peaceful reality with which both sides can live. We believe that a just and lasting peace must be based on democratic values, human rights, and mutual knowledge and acceptance of "the other."