



Study Visits

For further information visit our Website <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

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Why participating in a study visit?

You want to learn from new and innovative experiences? You want to discover concrete tools applied to the field? You value practical learning? You want to learn lessons from people who have lived in similar circumstances your community experiences?

Study visits are short-term professional learning programs which take place in a real life situation. It allows visiting groups to benefit from concrete experiences, ask questions about the development activity being implemented and get first-hand feedbacks. Additionally, broader information exchanges take place among groups and experts, beyond the core topic.

Why Israel?

Israel is a young nation, which has enjoyed sixty two years of tremendous economical and social development. Its unique development experience is highly valuable for developing and emergent countries.

Demographic pressure on limited open spaces:	To adapt with its rapid population growth, Israel carried out innovative approaches for national and regional planning, urban development, urban revitalization and urban management
A unique geographic position:	From the northern region of Galilee to the Negev desert in the south, Israel undergoes territorial constraints (water shortage, reduced agricultural lands, urban pressure on open spaces and more) which led the country to develop solutions to enhance its economy, and develop semi-arid areas. It therefore plays the role of a "laboratory" integrating different climates in a small area.
Innovation and creativity:	Israel developed effective support mechanisms to innovations and entrepreneurship at national and local levels which led to great innovation in agriculture, alternative energies or high-tech-related technologies. The national economy also enjoys a dynamic and innovative SME sector.
Integrated Regional Development and community development:	At the early stage of the establishment of the State, Israel's unique form of welfare state fostered bottom-up community development and local governments' empowerment. Economical leverages, notably in peripheral areas, were successfully achieved through Integrated Regional Development.
High flow of migration:	As a land of migration, Israel had to develop tools to integrate its diverse communities and acquired considerable knowledge in capacity-building for new immigrants.

Why organizing study visits with the Weitz Center?

In this context, the Weitz Center for Development Studies enjoys a unique position. It has acquired excellent knowledge of the Israeli as well as the international development arena. Specifically, the Center mobilizes Israel's best practices, most recent and up-to-the-date experiences, tools and methodologies. The Center works closely with leading experts and professional from public, private and third sector and relevant advanced organizations, from which participants will benefit during the study visit.

The exponential development of Israel the last decades demonstrates that change is possible. Through study visits, the Weitz Center therefore takes a practical and proactive approach, sharing these best practices and working as a platform to enable adaptations of Israeli experiences and making them relevant to developing and transitional countries worldwide.

For additional information about the Weitz Center's approach and activities, please visit our Website www.weitz-center.org.

How is the Study visit organized and conducted?

Each visit is organized around a combination of:

- Conferences held by high level experts in each field
- Exposure visits guided by experts
- Meetings with actors, stakeholders and workers in each organization
- Discussions on adaptations of Israeli best practices to local conditions
- Visits to Holy Sites.

Study visits usually last 5 to 11 days.

How can you join a study visit?

Who can participate?

Study visits are open to all those who wish to participate. However, policy/decision makers, professionals, officials, businessmen, academics and/or members of nonprofit organizations working in relation with local and regional development and specifically to the issues addressed in the study visits will be those who will most benefit for their daily work.

Who to contact?

You can contact our representative in your country to form a group and participate in a tailor-made visit. You will also be informed about costs, visa procedures, insurance, etc.

To know who is the representative in your country, please contact dsc3@netvision.net.il

To tailor-make your study visit and to best benefit from it, you are highly encouraged to communicate your needs and the areas of work you wish to emphasize to the representative in your country.

Examples and proposed study visits for 2011:

The following section covers various study visits examples. You are welcomed to propose changes/adaptations to better fit your needs:

Local Economic Development



Learning objectives: Participants will learn how to implement Local Economic Development to generate employment and income, to improve socio-economic levels of all groups in the locality in order to ensure sustainability and inclusion.

Potential topics:

- Introduction to regional and local development
- Introduction to Strategic Planning and Integrated Development
- Support Systems for Local Economic Development.
- Integrated Local Development in urban and rural areas
- Tools for promoting Local Economic Development - strategic units, economic units, training, education
- Public and private partnership in local development
- Support systems for local development - business incubators, local centers to promote entrepreneurship, industrial parks
- Meetings with local governments in urban and rural areas.

Integrated Regional Development



Learning objectives: Participants will learn about Integrated Rural Development in Israel, including increasing productivity in agriculture, diversify rural activities and develop services, as well as human resources development, leadership and skills upgrading. They will also learn about the policy framework at local and national levels.

Potential topics:

- Integrated Rural Development
- Agricultural and non-agricultural activities (services, industry, tourism) in rural areas
- Employment promotion
- Value chain upgrading
- Role of local governments for rural development
- Cooperatives, agro-industrial centers and service centers
- Support systems for economic activities
- Social services (education and health).

Promoting SMEs



Learning objectives: To learn about the Israeli experience in promoting SMEs, in rural and urban areas and in the fields of agriculture, tourism, industries and services; And to discuss the adaptation of tools to the conditions of their countries/ regions and localities.

Potential topics:

- The development of business support centers for training, coaching, business planning, and access to funding
- Information centers for employers and employees
- Incubators for start-ups providing centralized services, professional support, financing and networking opportunities
- Promotion of small trade enterprises through infrastructure upgrading and social activities
- SMEs fusing technology, creativity and social action

- Agro-industries center
- Women entrepreneurship
- Formation of groups to develop skills, to create local and regional packages and to initiate marketing activities together
- Role of national / local government in promoting SMEs
- Support tools, policies and strategies that can be implemented.

Harnessing arts and crafts for local and regional development



Learning objectives: Understanding how the Arts & Crafts sector acts as leverage for local and regional development; How to develop practical tools to leverage the Arts & Crafts sector in their local areas for community-economic development; And explore potential opportunities for co operation with Israeli artisans and craftsmen.

Potential topics:

- Assets based and integrated approach to development
- Arts & Crafts business development in the rural sector
- Regional branding and marketing
- Business networking
- Creative co operations for marketing and selling
- Developing joint tourism products, services and events
- Joint business initiatives
- Support systems for businesses
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Fair-trade initiatives.

Rural tourism



Learning objectives: Understand how to harness local assets for rural tourism; Develop rural tourism support systems, partnerships and stakeholders' cooperation, and sites and infrastructure; And introduce marketing.

Potential topics:

- One-stop-shop for small tourism business
- Professional support for marketing and branding
- Rural associations and networks
- Agro and eco-tourism activities such as wineries, olive oil production, dairy products and others
- "Hosting" scenery for accommodations
- Ethnic local restaurants and women-owned restaurants
- Sport activities in rural areas (hiking, cycling... etc)
- Arts and crafts organizations for marginalized people.

Municipal planning and management platforms for development

Learning objectives: Introduce participants with tools, illustrate the utilization of these tools in the field to better understand the operational aspects (technical aspects, training required, level of education of workers, data collection challenges... etc), and illustrate the impacts on the institution (improvement of municipal management, incomes increase...), as well as on the municipality in general (urban environment, services and investment improvements).

Potential topics:

- Computer-based management systems for municipalities
- Impact of these systems in the field
- Education planning and management
- Computer-based parking and tax collection

- Human Resources and population management
- Planning and maintenance of infrastructures
- GIS companies.

Municipal Branding



Learning objectives: The study visit will enable participants to gain knowledge and experiences regarding municipal branding and promotion of tangible improvements; Municipal and regional strategic planning and implementation; Asset-based Local Economic Development; And stakeholders' designation and participation.

Potential topics:

- Local authorities and municipal branding;
- Partnerships with public, private and non-profit stakeholders;
- Public participation;
- Leisure and cultural activities' promotion;
- Employment and economic development through municipal branding;
- Regional and local tourism;
- Urban revitalization.

Municipal waste management



Learning objectives: To learn more about Israeli experiences and best practices in the field of municipal waste management; To understand how waste management can lead to development.

Potential topics:

- Waste management technologies;
- Waste management in a semi-arid locality;
- Recycling and environmental education;
- Business opportunities in Israeli waste management technologies;
- Modern land fill, waste to energy (methane gas from organic waste);
- Compost industry and paper recycling industry.

Clean technologies for LED



Learning objectives: Participants will learn more about the potential of renewable energies for economic development; Poverty-environment linkages for water and wastewater management solutions; And, waste and recycling sustainable solutions for growth.

Potential topics:

- Renewable energy (solar, wind...) technologies;
- Renewable energies for SME development;
- Wastewater treatment technologies for municipality, agriculture and industries;
- High tech solutions for water management;
- Waste to energy projects;
- Waste and recycling sustainable solutions...

Promoting value chain upgrading in agriculture



Learning objectives: Learn more about Israel's relevant technologies and practical experience from the field; Learn how to target solutions to upgrade and enabling the environment, and create networks and partnerships to improve the value chain.

Potential topics:

- The Value Chain in the agribusiness in Israel;
- Integrated Regional Development initiatives;
- Capacity-building and skills upgrading;

Agriculture productivity and irrigation systems



- Professional support platforms for businesses;
- Associations and cooperatives of producers and distributors;
- Relevant Government agencies.

Learning objectives: Increase knowledge in productive agriculture development in semi-arid areas, technological innovations for agriculture upgrading, irrigation systems, equipment and management support, value chain upgrading and income generation, and green technology and organic agriculture.

Potential topics:

- Crop selection, quality upgrading and adaptation;
- Fertilization, greenhouse and plant nursery;
- Research schemes to develop varieties of crops, and patents;
- Value chain upgrading: Packing, marketing, distributing and exporting vegetables, fruits and other crops;
- Organic production and distribution;
- Micro-irrigation systems and equipment;
- ICT applied to agricultural productivity and irrigation;
- Green irrigation technology;
- Waster water management and water treatment.

Improving dairy farming for local development



Learning objectives: The development of dairy farming to achieve community development through the creation, development and management of dairy-related activities, cattle management, improvement of organizational structure of stakeholders, dairy production's value chain and policy framework.

Potential topics:

- Conception and design of dairy stables;
- Technological support and ICT support for dairy farming;
- Care, reproduction and alimentation of cattle;
- The role of micro-enterprises in the agro-process industry;
- Support organizations and cooperatives for dairy farmers;
- Dairy farming value chain
- Policies and programs carried out by the relevant Ministry.

ICT for Development and Health

Learning objectives: Visit companies which invented the technology, incubators focused on Life Sciences-related businesses, and results in the field (in clinics, hospitals, municipalities).

Potential topics:

- Technology and potential of telemedicine
- Clinics and centers using telemedicine
- Clinics targeting minorities
- Center for Medical Simulation
- Nation-wide medical houses
- Incubators.

Gender and development promotion in a multicultural society

Learning objectives: Gender promotion in development; Women empowerment; Promotion of employment and entrepreneurship among women; Preventing violence/crisis and support/recovery of the victims.

Potential topics:

- Development of Civil Society organizations dealing with women in distress and of legal aid organizations;



(Druze woman)

Promoting inclusion of disabled people



- Women empowerment;
- Advocacy around policy change, and religion issues;
- Counseling and capacity-building for women;
- Networking among multicultural women groups;
- Promotion of employment and entrepreneurship;
- Business support and incubators for women entrepreneurs;
- Protection of women at home and at work;
- Partnership between the local authority and local community, central Government and ministries.

Learning objectives: Learn how to promote accessibility for disabled people; Learn how to create partnerships with public agencies or private sector organizations; Learn how to develop tools and mechanisms to reduce exclusion of disabled people; And learn how to promote employment and entrepreneurship.

Potential topics:

- Policy advocacy;
- Awareness rising to increase accessibility for disabled people;
- Consulting, training, coalition-building assistance and other services for Civil Society organizations;
- Development of accessible natural areas and urban sites;
- Promotion of employment and entrepreneurship;
- Social services to elderly and disabled people in poor community;
- Partnership with private sector organizations;
- Partnership between the local authority and local community.