



Study Visits 2012

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-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 12 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 the representative in your country is, 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 2012:

The following section covers various study visits examples.

We included proposed dates; however, dates will be valid only if ten candidates at least apply to the visit.

You are welcomed to propose changes/adaptations to better fit your needs:

SME promotion for Local Economic Development

Proposed dates: 23/01 to 1/02/2012



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
- 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.

Agriculture productivity and irrigation systems

Proposed dates: 6/02 to 15/02/2012

Plant trees for Tu B'Shevat, The New Year for Trees!

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.

ICT for Development and Health

Proposed dates: 20/02 to 29/02/2012

Included: Participate in MEDAX, the International Hospital Supply and Medical Technology Trade Fair

Learning objectives: Understand the relations between research, technology, incubators and business creation in the health sector and evaluate the results in the field (in different medical centers in central and peripheral areas).

Potential topics:

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

Integrating ICT into Municipal Planning and Management

Proposed dates: 19/03 to 28/03/2012

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.

Promoting value chain upgrading in agriculture

Proposed dates: 14/05

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.

to 23/05/2012
Included: Participate in the international exhibition AgriTech

Potential topics:

- The Value Chain in the agribusiness in Israel;
- Integrated Regional Development initiatives;
- Capacity-building and skills upgrading;
- Professional support platforms for businesses;
- Associations and cooperatives of producers and distributors;
- Relevant Government agencies.

Harnessing arts and crafts for local and regional development

Proposed dates: 11/06 to 20/06/2012



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.

Clean technologies for LED

Proposed dates: 2/07 to 11/07/2012

Included: Participate in the 16st "CleanTech" international conference and exhibition

Learning objectives: Participants will learn more about the potential of renewable energies, water, wastewater and waste for income-generation and economic development.

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.

Gender and development in a multicultural society

Proposed dates: 27/08

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

to 5/09/2012



(Druze woman)

Potential topics:

- Development of Civil Society organizations dealing with women in distress and of legal aid organizations
- Women empowerment
- Advocacy around policy change, and religion issues
- Counseling and capacity-building
- Networking among multicultural groups
- Promotion of employment and entrepreneurship
- Business support and incubators for women or young entrepreneurs
- Protection of women at home and at work
- Partnership between the local authority and local community, central Government and ministries.

Diversification of activities in rural areas and rural tourism

Proposed dates: 15/10 to 24/10/2012



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-tourism and agri-businesses such as wineries, olive oil production, dairy products and others
- Eco-tourism and accommodations
- Ethnic local restaurants and women-owned restaurants
- Sport activities in rural areas (hiking, cycling... etc)
- Arts and crafts organizations for marginalized people.

Innovations and introduction of technologies for agricultural and rural development

Proposed dates: 5/11 to 14/11/2012



Learning objectives: Increase knowledge in productive agriculture development, 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:

- Fostering innovation in the agricultural sector
- Research schemes to develop varieties of crops, and patents
- Crop selection, quality upgrading and adaptation
- Fertilization, greenhouse and plant nursery
- Value chain upgrading and agro-industries: Packing, marketing, distributing and exporting vegetables, fruits and other crops
- Organic production and distribution

Tools for Municipal Economic Development

Proposed dates: 19/11 to 28/11/2012



- Agro-tourism and agri-businesses
- Micro-irrigation systems and equipment, and wastewater
- ICT applied to agricultural productivity and irrigation.

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
- Municipal economical companies
- Public participation
- Leisure and cultural activities' promotion
- Employment and economic development through municipal branding;
- Urban revitalization.