**peacecamp 2013 – feedback4peace Assessment**

A few weeks after the peacecamp all the participants were asked to answer a feedback questionnaire. The assessment of peacecamp 2013 is based on 35 returned questionnaires of both youngsters and staff members. In short, it’s a very positive resumée, as it has already been in the years before. The participants were pleased to be part of the whole peacecamp experience.

**1. Please rate the peacecamp-related elements/activities on a scale**

The following items represent different activities and elements of the peacecamp. The participants were asked to rate each item on a scale from 1 (very satisfying) to 5 (very unsatisfying). We calculated the average mean for each item and each group as well as for the total group of participants. The results can be seen in the following table:

|  | Group |
| --- | --- |
| Jewish | Arab | Hungarian | Austrian | Staff | Total |
| Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean |
| The Place Reibers | 1,00 | 1,67 | 1,56 | 1,86 | 1,50 | 1,54 |
| The Youth Hostel | 1,67 | 1,56 | 1,78 | 2,14 | 2,25 | 1,83 |
| The Restaurant | 2,33 | 3,44 | 1,89 | 2,57 | 1,67 | 2,50 |
| Silvio's Large Group | 2,50 | 3,78 | 2,67 | 2,86 | 1,50 | 2,83 |
| WS: I Feel Good | 1,00 | 1,56 | 1,11 | 1,29 | 1,00 | 1,23 |
| Creating a Logo | 1,83 | 1,67 | 1,44 | 1,71 | 1,25 | 1,60 |
| Making Masks | 1,67 | 1,67 | 1,33 | 2,00 | 1,33 | 1,61 |
| WS: My Own Family | 2,33 | 1,44 | 1,56 | 2,14 | 1,25 | 1,74 |
| WS: Talks4peace | 1,50 | 1,11 | 1,22 | 1,50 | 1,67 | 1,33 |
| Culture Evenings | 1,00 | 1,00 | 1,11 | 1,14 | 1,00 | 1,06 |
| Crossing the CZ border | 1,00 | 1,00 | 1,33 | 1,33 | 1,00 | 1,16 |
| show4peace in Reibers | 1,50 | 1,00 | 1,22 | 1,40 | 1,25 | 1,24 |
| Vienna Sight Seeing | 1,17 | 1,00 | 1,22 | 1,67 | 1,00 | 1,23 |
| show4peace in Vienna | 1,33 | 1,22 | 1,00 | 1,20 | 1,00 | 1,16 |
| Timetable/Structure | 1,67 | 1,89 | 1,33 | 2,14 | 2,00 | 1,77 |
| Free time | 1,17 | 1,56 | 1,33 | 2,00 | 2,25 | 1,60 |
| Peacecamp Experience | 1,00 | 1,00 | 1,11 | 1,57 | 1,00 | 1,14 |

A very pleasing result is that in total all ratings are below 3, which means that all peacecamp elements and activities were in average rated “very satisfying”, “satisfying” or at least “ok”. It should also be mentioned that the rating of this year’s peaceamp shows an improvement to 2012.

One of the most pleasant results is the rating of the “peacecamp experience” with a total of 1.14, the Jewish and Arab group as well as the staff members rated a straight 1.0.

As in the previous years, the culture evenings can be seen as a highlight of the peacecamp with a total rating of 1.06. The participant also especially enjoyed the trip to Czech Republic, the shows4peace, sightseeing in Vienna as well as the workshops “feel good for peace” and “talks4peace”. Silvio’s Large Group scored a total of 2.83 (which is similar to last year’s 2.87), with average ratings ranging from 1.50 (staff) to 3.78 (Arabs). Feedback shows that the participants mostly criticized the structure of the large group and the length of the sessions.

All in all the participants were satisfied with the place Reibers (the Jewish delegation rated a straight 1.0) and the youth hostel, only the Austrian delegation’s rating is – as it has already been the year before – below average (probably because the setting was nothing “new” for them). The restaurant and food scored a total rating of 2.5, only the Arab (3.44) and Austrian (2.57) delegation rated it below average. This means an improvement to last year’s total score of 3.75.

**2. Which three things did you like best in the peacecamp?**

The participants were asked to nominate up to three things which they particularly liked in the peacecamp. Because of the fact that their answers were all phrased differently we classified them in categories. The category “others” consist of items nominated twice or less. The following table shows how often each category was mentioned by the participating groups:

| What did you like best? | Group |
| --- | --- |
| Jewish | Arab | Hungarian | Austrian | Staff | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| People | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 24 |
| Culture Evenings | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 13 |
| WS: Feel Good | 4 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| Activities | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Free Time | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| Expressing yourself | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Learn from others | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Trip to Vienna | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| The place | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Living together | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| White Box | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Others | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| Total | 18 | 26 | 27 | 21 | 12 | 104 |

The participants very much enjoyed the company of the people and making new friends, especially because they all come from different countries and cultures. As already mentioned before, the culture evenings were seen as a highlight of the peacecamp. Participants also especially enjoyed the morning workshop “feel good for peace” and the different activities in general, as well as the time they could spend together between the sessions. They appreciated the fact that they could express their talents, opinions and feelings and to learn from others in return. Sightseeing in Vienna, the place Reibers, living together and the White Box were mentioned as well.

**3. Which three things did you dislike?**

The participants were asked to nominate up to three things which they did not like in the peacecamp. The different mentioned elements were classified again and can be seen in the table below:

| What did you dislike? | Group |
| --- | --- |
| Jewish | Arab | Hungarian | Austrian | Staff | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| Large Group | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| Nothing | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Food | 0 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| Too short | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| Not enough free time | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Short Time in Vienna | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Cleaning situation | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Place  | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Hostel/Bedrooms | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Bedtimes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Others (2 or less) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 9 |
| Total | 12 | 26 | 18 | 14 | 6 | 76 |

The large group was named most often by the participants (14x) with the statement, that the sessions lasted too long and were therefore rather exhausting, they also criticized the structure of the large group. Also worth mentioning is the fact that nine participants stated nothing when asked what they didn’t like, and seven participants would have loved the peacecamp to last longer. Nine participants didn’t really like the food or would have liked more vegetables and fruits. Also mentioned was the lack of time they could spend together between the sessions as well as the short time in Vienna. Some participants criticized the cleaning situation especially of the bathrooms, the fact that there were no shops and no internet in Reibers as well as the bedroom situation and the bedtimes.

**4. Please list what you have learned / taken home from the peacecamp**

The participants were asked to nominate up to three things they have learned at or taken home from the peacecamp. The answers were again put into categories and can be seen in the table below:

| What have you learned, taken home from the peacecamp? | Group |
| --- | --- |
| Jewish | Arab | Hungarian | Austrian | Staff | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| Different Cultures | 4 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 24 |
| Get to know different perspectives | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 16 |
| Believe in Peace | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| New Friends | 1 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 13 |
| New ways to cope with difficulties | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| History, Information about conflicts | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Language Skills | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Good Memories | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Others (2 or less) | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Total | 16 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 11 | 96 |

The peacecampers learned a lot about different cultures, how to treat each other with respect and that everyone is the same with the same feelings and teenage problems, where the cultural background just doesn’t matter. Thus they gained a lot of new friends. The participants really appreciated to get to know different perspectives, enjoyed to hear the others’ opinions and learned to accept them. It helped them to believe in peace and to create their own strategies to achieve peace within themselves and bring it to others. Participants learned about new ways and strategies to cope with difficulties, and especially that negotiating is the best and only way to solve a conflict. They also gained a lot of knowledge about the history of the different cultures and the Mideast conflict, improve their language skills in English and enjoyed learning new words in Hebrew, Arabic, Hungarian or German. They took with them lots of good memories.

**5. What would you improve in the next peacecamps?**

The answers to the question of “what should be improved” show that the participants were all in all very satisfied with the peacecamp experience. Here are the things they would improve in the next peacecamp:

| What would you improve? | Group |
| --- | --- |
| Jewish | Arab | Hungarian | Austrian | Staff | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| Structure of the Large Group | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 13 |
| More Free Time | 4 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Food | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| Place/Cleaning Situation | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| See more of Austria | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Longer Peacecamp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Bedtime | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Others (1 nomination) | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| Total | 17 | 20 | 9 | 12 | 4 | 62 |

As it was already mentioned before, the peacecampers would like an improvement of the structure of the large group – shorter sessions and clear topics. They’d love to have more free time between the sessions to spend time with each other and to reflect on the experiences. Some participants (especially the Arab delegation, but it should be mentioned that peacecamp 2013 was during Ramadan) would prefer different food, especially more fruits and vegetables. The cleaning situation in the hostel was criticized – it was the participants’ responsibility to keep the place clean and apparently some didn’t take their duties serious enough. The peacecampers would have loved to see more of Austria, especially Vienna, and the Austrian delegation would have loved the peacecamp to last longer. Some participants didn’t like to get to bed and to have to wake up early.

**6. Please make a final statement about peacecamp**

At the end of the feedback questionnaire participants were asked to make a final statement about the peacecamp – the reactions are truly overwhelming. The participants described taking part in the peacecamp as one of the best and most significant experiences in their life that they will remember forever. They are grateful for having the possibility to be a part of the peacecamp family, for the opportunity to get to know new friends and cultures. But not only did they learn about other cultures, they also took the chance to learn a lot about themselves and could develop their own personality in a positive way. The participants want to give special thanks to Evelyn and Ronny for making all this possible.