**Peacecamp 2014 – feedback4peace Assessment**

A few weeks after the peacecamp all the participants were asked to answer a feedback questionnaire. The assessment of peacecamp 2014 is based on 33 returned questionnaires (31 youngsters and 2 teachers, added to their resp. groups). In short, it’s a very positive summary, as it has already been in the years before. The participants were pleased to be part of the whole peacecamp experience.

| Group: | Jewish  | Arab | Hungarian | Austrian | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Replies: | 8 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 33 |

**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 | Total |
| Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean |
| The Place/Village | 1,50 | 1,00 | 1,11 | 2,00 | 1,36 |
| The Youth Hostel | 1,63 | 1,33 | 1,56 | 2,00 | 1,61 |
| The Restaurant/Food | 3,38 | 3,67 | 2,89 | 2,00 | 3,03 |
| The Large Group | 2,75 | 2,56 | 2,33 | 2,86 | 2,61 |
| Art Sessions | 1,25 | 1,00 | 1,44 | 1,14 | 1,21 |
| Creating a Logo | 1,50 | 1,44 | 2,11 | 1,29 | 1,61 |
| Making Masks | 1,88 | 1,56 | 2,00 | 2,00 | 1,85 |
| Talks4Peace Workshops  | 2,63 | 2,56 | 2,44 | 2,14 | 2,45 |
| Culture Evenings | 1,63 | 1,00 | 1,00 | 1,00 | 1,15 |
| Show4Peace in Lackenhof | 1,63 | 1,33 | 1,89 | 1,57 | 1,61 |
| Vienna Sight Seeing | 1,38 | 1,00 | 1,78 | 2,00 | 1,52 |
| Show4Peace in Vienna | 1,25 | 1,00 | 1,11 | 1,29 | 1,15 |
| Timetable/Structure | 1,75 | 1,44 | 1,89 | 1,86 | 1,73 |
| Free Time | 1,38 | 1,44 | 1,56 | 2,00 | 1,58 |
| Peacecamp Experience | 1,00 | 1,22 | 1,00 | 1,00 | 1,06 |

All in all, the participants seem to have had a good time at the peacecamp. It is pleasant to see that only three out of 15 items got an average rating below “2” which means that all peacecamp elements and activities were in average rated “very satisfying”, “satisfying” or at least “ok”, as it has already been in 2013. The top result and probably most important one is the rating of the “Peacecamp Experience” as a whole, with a total of 1.06 and the Jewish, Hungarian and Austrian group rating it altogether as “very satisfying”.

This year’s highlights were again the Culture Evenings and Show4Peace in Vienna (total of 1.15), as well as the Art Sessions with AnnPhie, Lukas and Caroline (1.21). The participants liked the place Lackenhof (the Arab (1.00) and Hungarian (1.11) delegation especially), sightseeing in Vienna (1.52) and were satisfied with the hostel (total of 1.61) – as in the previous years, the Austrian group rated these three items below average (2.00 each), probably because it was nothing “new” for them. With 3.03 the food and restaurant scored a lower rating than last year, with the Arab (3.67) and Jewish (3.38) rating it below average.

According to the feedback, the participants loved their free time together, which cannot be properly represented by the rating itself (1.58) – many of them rated it as “satisfying” or lower because of a “lack of free time”. The overall structure and timetable of the peacecamp scored a total average rating of 1.73 and can therefore be considered “satisfying”.

The Large Group achieved a total average score of 2.61, which is similar to last year’s 2.83. The Talks4Peace Workshops got an overall rating of 2.45. Feedback shows that the participants mostly criticized the fact that they often couldn’t speak out everything what was on their mind.

**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 during 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 only once. The following table shows how often each category was mentioned by the participating groups:

| What did you like best? | Group |
| --- | --- |
| Jewish | Arab | Hungarian | Austrian | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| Art Sessions | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 22 |
| Culture Evenings | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 16 |
| Free Time | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| Location | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Large Group | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Peacecamp Experience | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| People | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Show in Vienna | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Morning Activities | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Different Cultures | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Visiting Vienna | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Talks4peace | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Other (2 or less) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Respondents | 8 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 33 |

The participants particularly liked this year’s Art Sessions, which was mentioned by 2/3 of all participants. Also, the Culture Evenings can again be seen as one of the highlights of the peacecamp, where the participants got the chance to present their own and got to know other cultures. They enjoyed to spend their free time together with new people and liked to be in Lackenhof, which was a completely new environment for most of them. The participants also nominated the “Large Group”, although it was not always clear if they meant the Large Group sessions or spending their time together in large groups. The peacecampers also enjoyed the show4peace and their time in Vienna, as well as the wake-up music activities in the morning.

**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 | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| Food | 8 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 21 |
| Large Group | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 20 |
| Not enough free time | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Talks4peace | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| Hostel | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Too short | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| Lackenhof Show | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Other (1 nomination) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Respondents | 8 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 33 |

Almost 2/3 of all participants disliked the food and restaurant, though it’s interesting to see that only about half of the Hungarian and none of the Austrian participants mentioned it. The Large Group also got nominated by almost 2/3 of the peacecampers throughout all groups. The participants thought that there was a lack of free time and that the peacecamp was too short in general. 1/3 of the Arab and the Hungarian disliked the Talks4peace sessions. The hostel got mentioned as well as the show4peace in Lackenhof, where they apparently expected more visitors.

**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 | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| New friends | 5 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 17 |
| Different perspectives | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 16 |
| Different cultures | 1 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 14 |
| Conflicts | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Listen | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| Personality skills | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Good memories | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| Language skills | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Believe in peace | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Interesting activities | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Other (1 nomination) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Respondents | 8 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 33 |

First of all, the peacecampers took with them a lot of new friends and good memories. They learnt how to understand and accept different perspectives by listening to and respecting others. They got to know different cultures and especially the Austrian and Hungarian group learnt a lot about the Middle Eastern conflict. The peacecampers were also able to work on their personality, like breaking up stereotypes, developing their own identity and creating new ideas. They also enjoyed improving their English skills and learning words in other languages as well as taking part in the various activities. In the end they came to the conclusion that peace is not impossible to reach.

**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 | Total |
| Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl | Anzahl |
| Large Group | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 11 |
| Food | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| More time to speak | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| More free time | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Hostel | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Outside activities | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Shorter sessions | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Longer peacecamp | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Other (1 nomination) | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Respondents | 8 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 33 |

As in the previous year, the peacecampers would like to see an improvement of the large group, with a clearer structure and more time to speak for the kids. This also applies for the talks4peace sessions. As already mentioned earlier, especially the Arab and Jewish delegation would prefer different food. All in all, the participants would appreciate to have a longer peacecamp with more outside activities, shorter sessions in general and more free time, which shows us that they really seemed to have enjoyed their time together.

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

At the end of the feedback questionnaire the participants were asked to make a final statement about the peacecamp. Here it becomes clear how much they enjoyed being part of the whole peacecamp experience. They described the peacecamp as the greatest experience of their life that they will remember forever. They are truly grateful for the opportunity to come to Austria to meet so many great people and new friends and to participate in this “magical little world”. It was a true adventure and gave them hope for peace.