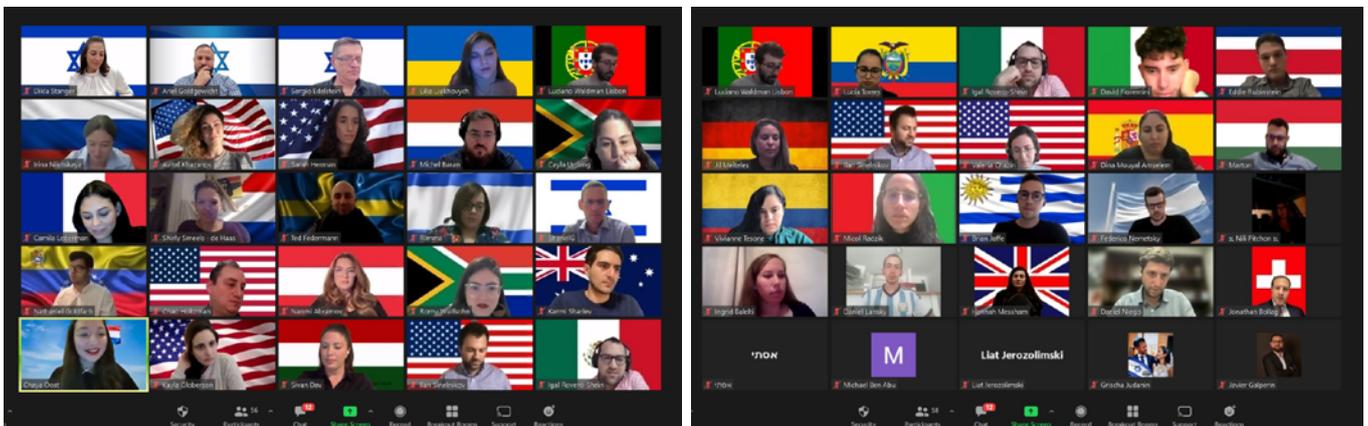




# Grand Opening of the Zionist Leadership Academy

The Resources and Development Division of Keren Kayemet Lelsrael KKL-JNF, in cooperation with the Department of Pioneering Youth and Future Generations of the World Zionist Organization, have launched the much-anticipated Zionist Leadership Academy. This new initiative is destined to build and develop a worldwide cohesive team of extraordinary young Zionist Leaders and project managers.

The Academy is a 10-month exclusive academic enrichment program inaugurated last week with 43 select young leaders, from 30 different countries worldwide. Hundreds of candidates went through rigorous selection and vetting processes, in cooperation key community leaders, local Israeli embassies, Jewish Agency emissaries and of course the local KKL-JNF branch. Forty-three candidates (22 women and 21 men), with an average age of 30, are without a doubt the best and the brightest young potential leaders that the Jewish people have to offer.



ZLA participants



*Ariel Goldgewicht*

"There is critical lack of young leaders within the Jewish communities around the world. Am Israel does not have the luxury to lose a generation. KKL-JNF together with the WZO understands the severity of this worldwide crises and have arrived at the conclusion that we must work together, or we will suffer the consequences individually. To overcome this challenge, we must put our differences aside and focus on the greater good" confirmed Ariel

Goldgewicht Executive Director of The Department of Pioneering Youth and Future Generations in the World Zionist Organization.

Israel and its national institutions are currently submerged in finding a strategy to respond to one of the main obstacles facing the long-term vision of world Jewry... The lack of capable, motivated, and committed future leaders. "Future generations will not forgive us for not having invested in them". Affirmed Goldgewicht

Often organizations concerned with the future of the Jewish people have been accustomed to working separately in order to achieve similar aims. We have decided to unite our resources in face of this threat. "Providing an efficient, practical and united solution is paramount... otherwise we will each fail individually" Expressed Ariel.

A few years ago, a strategic cooperation between the national institutions would have been unheard of. Each separate organization worked to achieve its own specific objectives, as opposed to working in sync for the greater good. These differences have been put aside in the face of this enormous obstacle. Our newly formed department in the World Zionist Organization, is eager to take on the responsibility.



*Sergio Edelstein*



We decided to undertake this challenge from a quality over quantity paradigm. Creating a "special-forces-style" team of outstanding young leaders from around the world.

The Zionist Leadership Academy, an initiative presented by the Department of Pioneering Youth and Future Generations of the WZO, headed by Sergio Edelstein, a veteran and renowned Zionist nonformal educator. Sergio entrusted this mission to his new Executive Director Ariel Goldgewicht. Ariel is a former Special forces operator from tZahal, who brings years of experience in high end worldwide project management in cooperation with Shariel Gun, Director of Fundraising in KKL – JNF, they set the wheels of this program rolling and placed it in the hands of Dikla Stanger, the Academy Coordinator.

In addition, none of this would have been possible without the long-term vision, courage and leadership of Hernan Felman, Vice chairman of the KKL – JNF and Ronnie Vinnikov the Director of the Resources and Development Division in KKL-JNF, who approved this new generation of inter-institutional cooperation.

"The ZLA, is groundbreaking on many levels. On one hand trailblazing a new cooperation paradigm, secondly focusing on quality as opposed to quantity, and overall, bringing the best and the brightest of each community around the world to learn together and then work together for the greater good of us all." Confirmed Dikla Stanger.

Over the next 10 months these 43 selected young leaders will be exposed to some of the most interesting and controversial topics regarding Leadership, Project Management, Israel, Zionism and Judaism.



*Dikla Stanger*

They will learn together, debate, and forge lasting relationships. Together we will dive deep into a series of subjects, issues, and dilemmas.

The ZLA will not be providing answers, directions, or specific perspectives. The job is to create questions, and to challenge our young leaders to come up with their own personal perspective. "This is the difference between teaching students and fostering leaders, we are all about the latter! We will provide tools, knowledge, and skills, but the result will ultimately be up to the participants." Confirmed Stanger.



*Shariel Gun*

"We are not looking to create 43 individual exceptional leaders; we are set on creating a team of 43 exceptional leaders who know how to work together for the greater good." Stated Shariel Gun.

With the lighting of the Chanukah candles this week, bringing the light of renewal into our homes and rejoicing the victory against all odds of the Maccabees, so too the ZLA

launched their program ensuring that the future of our people will continue to be brighter than ever.

