

Short report on the HCGES study trip 2017

“Europe on the move - past and present of migration in Europe”

25. June - 02. July 2017, Brussels and Berlin

Participants:

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The main themes of this year's study trip were migration, refugees and integration policies. The delegation of the Haifa Center for German and European Studies (HCGES) traveled to Brussels and Berlin and looked at these interesting and up-to-date topics from different angles and put them into a historic perspective.

The students learned about current challenges of migration and refugees in Europe and Germany and discussed possible strategies and current policies to meet these challenges. Especially while they were in Brussels the students encountered these policies and understood opportunities and difficulties of a common European solution to the current “refugee crisis.” In Berlin, they met representatives of organizations working with refugees as well as refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The students were very interested in and touched by their personal stories about war, its consequences, and life as a refugee, which they shared with the delegation. Thus, the delegation met with many representatives working on different levels of migration, refugee, and integration.

Beyond that, the students perceived migration and refugees in Europe as issues not new to this continent, but rather as historic and ongoing phenomena (for example through the visit at the Marienfeld Refugee Camp and the guided tour at the Jewish Museum).

In addition to all these points in the program, the students valued the visit and the guided tours at the European Parliament and the Bundestag very much. Although never enough, the students also enjoyed their free-time to explore the cities by themselves.

For more information see the attached overview of the program.

Program overview:

Date	Program
Sunday, June 25 Brussels	- Flight to Brussels
Monday, June 26 Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided tour Brussels: option 1: history and art, option 2: diversity and Europe - Visit to the European Parliament - Expert talk with representatives of the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS)
Tuesday, June 27 Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meeting with MEP Dr. Peter Niedermueller (Hungary) at the European Parliament - Expert talk with representatives of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) - Train to Berlin
Wednesday, June 28 Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tränenpalast – guided tour through the exhibition - Presentation and discussion at the Center for Political Education on the topic “migration and refugees – past and present” - Berlin city tour (Video-bus tour "places of democracy") - Dinner talk with Prof. Nazan Maksudyan of the Zentrum Moderner Orient on the new and future immigration to Germany of Turkish academics and other intellectuals
Thursday, June 29 Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headquarters DAAD: programs for refugees in Germany and meeting with participants of this program - Presentation on “Civil war - a risk to our security?” by “Jugendoffiziere der Bundeswehr” - dinner talk with Armin Langer of Salaam-Shalom
Friday, June 30 Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marienfeld refugee transit camp (the historical refugee transit camp and today's refugee camp, talk with refugees living in the camp at the moment) - Meeting with Gilles Duhem, director of the Gemeinschaftshaus MORUS14 e.V. (Quartiersmanagement Rollberg) - Option: Concert of the deutsches Symphonie-Orchester at Philharmonie
Saturday, July 1 Berlin	- Free time
Sunday, July 2 Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tour of the Bundestag - Guided Tour of exhibition “Cherchez la femme” at the Jewish Museum - Flight to Tel Aviv