

SPARKING DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION

For 2018, we are very excited to launch our groundbreaking new program: “SPARKING DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION”.

In our desire to be partners of change within the Palestinian education ecosystem, and in partnership with Finnish experts “Omnia Education Partnership”, we designed this program which aims to spark a national dialogue around education where key players can share experiences, discuss positive change and set learning priorities. Taking inspiration from the Finnish dialogue model – Finland sees dialogue as a vital step towards arriving at shared visions and common goals – we designed a program with dialogue at its core, to reach a shared vision about “The education system we want to have in Palestine.”

“Experience is a master teacher, even when it’s not our own.”

Gina Greenlee

Why Finland?

Finland has undertaken major – and ongoing – reform in its education system based on dialogue between all stakeholders, and the results have been tremendously positive.

In **SPARKING DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION**, we do not aim to replicate the Finnish education system in any way, as transplanting one system into another environment would never be successful. What we DO want to do however, is to seek inspiration from the Finland dialogue around education, and use this to create our own Palestinian dialogue.

“If you want to learn something from Finland, it’s the implementation of ideas. It’s looking at education as nation-building.”

Dr. Pasi Sahlberg

Director General of the Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation in Finland’s Ministry of Education and Culture

We believe that dialogue is the way forward, breaking down the barriers between educators and ultimately bring about positive change and a commitment to ongoing reform in our education system.



A NEW PROGRAM IS BORN

In looking at global trends in education, we decided to explore different education system models, including the Finnish education system. Inspired by this outstanding education ecosystem that responds to the needs of current and coming generations, and through consultations with Finnish education experts, we learned one of their secrets to success is adopting dialogue as the starting point for creating a vibrant system, and especially for arriving at a common vision for education.

Working with our Finnish counterparts - Omnia Education Partnership - over a period of many months, we designed a program specific to the

Palestinian context, a program whose cornerstone is dialogue. Dialogue is what is needed to break down the “silos” or isolated towers that each education stakeholder is operating in, and thus arrive at a common vision about “the education we aspire to”. Through this process, we created the program “SPARKING DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION”.

We see this program as a vital step towards fulfilling our core mission of creating “A disruptive generation of educated, innovative and engaged youth, capable of shaping the future of Palestine.” We look forward to bringing strong and committed partners on board who share our common vision of education.

SPARKING DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION IS an exciting program that brings together key players from the educational field in a dialogue that aims to:

- Build a deeper understanding of the layers shaping education.
- Create a coherent picture of where education is going.
- Bring about positive change in the education ecosystem.
- Map the ideal Palestinian education ecosystem and the concrete steps needed to achieve it.

Walking the walk

An open dialogue about
Palestinian education is a step
towards tangible solutions on
the ground.

Sparking Dialogue for Education in Numbers



Participants from across the education ecosystem in Palestine who will take part in the program.



Days spent in Finland as part of an initial study visit.



Thematic Dialogue Activities in Palestine bringing together participants and other key stakeholders.

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

William Butler Yeats

To truly
dialogue is to
know another's
perspective
as one knows
one's own



SELECTING PARTICIPANTS FOR THE PROGRAM

We wanted to bring together 25 dedicated and passionate participants from across the education sector in Palestine. Selection from among nominated participants took into consideration the following:

- Diversity of backgrounds, roles, and geographic distribution.
- Current role and engagement with the education system in Palestine.
- Vision for education in Palestine.
- Best practices in teaching or leadership, developed or used by the participant to be shared with other participants.
- Commitment to the future of education in Palestine.



EMBARKING ON THE LEARNING JOURNEY

The program will kick off with a 5-day study visit to Finland, allowing participants to experience the Finnish education system first hand. Each day of this visit will be an opportunity for our participants to learn and reflect on the education system in Palestine.

Learning About the Finnish Ecosystem

After arriving in Finland, our participants will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and get to know each other through collaborative and dynamic teambuilding activities and breakout sessions. They will also receive an overview of the Finnish education ecosystem.

Finish School Visits

Our participants will then spend two days visiting schools, observing classes, meeting with educators and specialists and participating in special workshops. They will even have lunch in the school cafeterias.

Through these visits, our participants gain insight on how schools function and form a learning community, what collaborative leadership looks like, and what some different learning environments might look like.

The Hackathon

The trip culminates in a Hackathon centered around HQSF's new mission of creating "A disruptive generation of educated, innovative and engaged youth, capable of shaping the future of Palestine". During the Hackathon, participants will brainstorm best ideas and practices as related to the Palestinian context. Our Finnish education experts will serve as facilitators for this process, sharing the experience of the recent and ongoing dialogue for education reform taking place in Finland as a source of inspiration. During the Hackathon, participants will split into 5 groups, as per the topics of the Thematic Dialogue Activities they will participate in once back in Palestine.

“Each step you take
reveals a new horizon.”

Dan Poynter



THEMATIC DIALOGUE ACTIVITIES

After returning to Palestine, our journey will take us through five major dialogue activities, involving program participants as well as a number of Palestinian educators from the sector at large. The activities aim to foster positive dialogue between participants, with each exploring a specific topic.

During these Thematic Dialogue Activities, our participants will come together to share and learn from each other with a focus on best practices that exist in Palestine, sharing their own personal best practices and identifying those that can be scaled up. Each Thematic Dialogue will conclude with a visit to a Palestinian educational institution so that participants can reflect on what they discussed and shared.

The 5 Thematic Dialogue Activities of our learning journey are:

The Education Ecosystem

Focuses on gaining a deeper understanding of all the layers that create the education ecosystem.

- Our participants will discuss the elements of the education ecosystem; draw the existing Palestinian Ecosystem; identify missing or weak elements; and share what they think the Palestinian education ecosystem should look like.
- Participants will weigh in with their thoughts on necessary cooperation to improve the effectiveness and quality of education, and will agree on communication channels among themselves to support cooperation during and after the program.
- Participants will develop practical ways boost cooperation and start a good practice portfolio or “cookbook”.

Leadership

Good leadership and a clear vision are critical in order to lead any educational institution to success.

- We will share visions of educational leadership, and participants will be invited to think about their roles as leaders by drafting personal/school vision and mission statements.

- Participants will discuss management versus leadership issues, and prepare an annual clock for management and leadership. Ultimately participants will share good practices for piloting in other schools.

The Teacher

The teacher is a central and crucial element of the education ecosystem.

- Participants will share different visions of quality learning, as well as core building blocks of good teaching practice.
- Together, participants will create a teacher's competence map as related to critical skills needed both now and in the future. We will also draft a teacher's annual clock.

Learning Environment

A conducive learning environment is made up of key elements.

- Participants will look at the learning environment in a holistic way, taking into account all the elements that comprise it, which are not limited to physical space or classroom layout but also include techniques that engage and stimulate learners. We are especially interested in the elements of a conducive, supportive learning environment.
- Participants will build an understanding of how the digital dimension changes learning.

- Participants will share good practice in frugal development of learning environments and draft goals for future development.

Reform

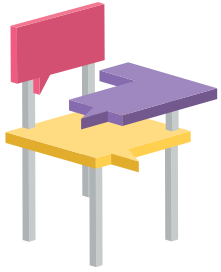
Continuous reform is necessary for the growth and evolution of our education ecosystem.

- Participants will examine the educational reform now taking place and how it has/hasn't taken into consideration what the participants consider necessary change.
- Participants will look at elements that will affect learning in the future and examine how constant change can be incorporated into an ongoing reform process, including a discussion of change management.
- Participants will draft a roadmap for change on a practical (classroom, school, teacher training, supervision) level. Participants by now have gained the insight necessary into the above elements of the equation (The education ecosystem, leadership the teacher, the learning environment) and what is needed to reform this system, as well as what role they can play in this process.

“Begin with the end in mind.”

Stephen R. Covey.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People



THE CONCLUSION OF OUR LEARNING JOURNEY

By the end of the program, all our participants will have gained a deep insight into the layers shaping the education ecosystem. **SPARKING DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION** will foster dialogue and collaboration between program participants, and through a variety of online and real life outreach platforms, we aim to create a ripple effect across the entire Palestinian education sector, driving positive change and lasting, effective cooperation. We should be able to collectively reflect upon the reform that is needed within our education ecosystem and have gained the tools necessary to bring it into reality.

We stand for
education.

We stand for
dialogue.

We stand for a
**prosperous
Palestine.**

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