



ISRAEL, EAST JERUSALEM, THE WEST BANK

MEET — Empowering and educating Israeli and Palestinian youth to create positive social impact



More information on un.org

While Israel is called a ‘start-up nation’, its minorities are significantly underrepresented in the knowledge industry. Palestinians, women and Arab populations in Israel lack access to quality STEM education and professional networks, perpetuating segregation, fear and distrust in the region.

The Julius Baer Foundation supports MEET in introducing tools addressing the problematic wealth divide in the Middle East. By adapting its

recruitment strategy, MEET ensures a 50% representation for teenagers from disadvantaged communities and an equal number of students from higher socioeconomic strata to forge diverse networks of friendships across the wealth divide. Further, a newly designed tech ethics curriculum centres on the power of technology to bridge the gaps and counter uneven access to opportunities.

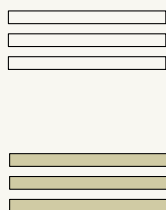
Every year, 120 students living in segregation start their three-year educational programme acquiring a mutual set of skills, values and capacity for technological innovation in a binational context.

Quick facts

- Israel and Palestine, nationwide
- Project support: 2022–2024
- Grant amount: CHF 150,000 per year
- Linking Palestinian and Israeli youth (ages 15 to 17)
- Goal: Enabling minorities and women in Palestine and Israel to develop quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), entrepreneurship and leadership skills to create lasting, meaningful change in their communities.

From being segregated ...

Youth from marginalised communities have limited STEM education and career opportunities, leading to near absences of Palestinians and women in tech and entrepreneurialism while widening the wealth divide.



... to being a tight-knit skilled cadre.

Young women and men gain skills in computer science and business practices while working together in diverse and bi-national environments, networking with key persons from the local hi-tech and business world.

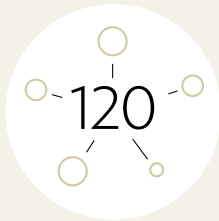




“At MEET, I was surrounded by amazing women, students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) who taught me how fun programming can be, businesswomen who showed me how to rock the entrepreneurship world, and other Israeli and Palestinian girls just like me, who supported me when things got hard.”

Anat Gilenson, Class of 2012,
Software Engineer at Microsoft

OUTPUT



Today, MEET reaches **120 students per new cohort**. In their first summer, the first-year students created more than **35 group projects** based on computer science and entrepreneurship skills.

OUTCOME



MEET’s alumni community counts more than **810 leaders** in the region, many of whom have achieved significant success in social entrepreneurship.

HIGHLIGHT



The project ensures **equal representation per cohort**: 50% Palestinians, 50% Israelis, 50% young women, 50% young men, joining youth from the periphery of Israel and the West Bank with those from the centre.

Shaping tomorrow’s leaders

- The high-tech ecosystem in Israel and Palestine benefits a narrow group of already established people, leaving behind the underprivileged minorities.
- Palestinians constitute 20% of the country’s population, but only 4% of high-tech workers. A fact that contributes to the feeling of exclusion.
- The result of the booming high-tech industry is a split economy, perpetuating the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- MEET began bridging this educational gap with its first courses in the early 2000s.
- Partnering with MIT, the MEET programme connects disadvantaged and privileged students and provides them with the tools, skills and knowledge to succeed in the business and high-tech industry.
- By creating computer science and entrepreneurship projects together, the region’s youth become personally and professionally connected.
- MEET helps to create a generation of leaders who know how to work across political divides from a young age.

About MEET

Founded in partnership with MIT in 2004 by the Israeli siblings Yaron and Anat Binur and the Palestinian women Abeer Hazboun and Sandra Ashhab, MEET – Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow – teaches and inspires over 300 excelling Israeli and Palestinian high school students in their hubs in Jerusalem and Nazareth and additionally through the virtual hub MEETx.



More information about MEET and their project in Israel: meet.org

Do you feel inspired by the MEET project and would like to support it?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us! We would love an exchange.



Find out more about us and our projects online or write us at foundation@juliusbaer.com

Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the grant Foundation of Bank Julius Baer is focused on reducing wealth inequality. It convenes leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supports projects around the globe where the privileged and disadvantaged work together towards a world of equal opportunities.

Contact

Julius Baer Foundation
Bahnhofstrasse 36, P. O. Box
8010 Zurich, Switzerland
Tel.: +41(0)58 888 4422
foundation@juliusbaer.com
www.juliusbaer.com/foundation
IBAN: CH 94 0851 5072 8789 4200 9