

Final Report: Junior research stay at HUJI

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Environmental cooperation between Germany and Israel: impacts on sustainability and climate change policies at the Israeli local level

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This was my second research stay in Israel with a UAS fellowship. A year had passed since my first research stay under the fellowship, and during this time my research became more focused – aiming at understanding how German climate and sustainability policies affect the Israeli local level. This second research stay, therefore, aimed to target and achieve certain goals that previously were under-developed. For example, the involvement of certain Israeli cities in different stages of environmental cooperation with German cities became more transparent than before.

My host academic supervisor at the Hebrew University, prof. Eran Feitelson, who is among the top academics and experts regarding environmental policy and planning in Israel, has kindly directed me to local and central level policy makers, bureaucrats and academics involved in areas close to my research. These people, in turn, directed me to other potential interviewees. In this sense the research stay was very beneficial in shaping parts related to Israel in my research. Moreover, several interviewees linked me to their German partners and colleagues. Interviews and written materials from these last two months are planned to be an important part of my thesis.

The research stay also enabled me to be present in academic and professional events such as the launching of “Ecology & Environment” journal’s special issue on urban sustainability in Israel, and the first Israeli climate conference that was held in Tel-Aviv. I believe a short-time stay could have not given me these kinds of opportunities. Moreover, as in the previous research stay this visit has strengthen my knowledge and exposure to urban climate and sustainability policies and projects taking place in Israel, with and without relations to Germany. This was beneficial in understanding direct and indirect aspects related to my research.