

Final Report:  
Administrative exchange visit to  
Hebrew University Jerusalem (HUJI)

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has four main campus areas: one of them in a rural setting at Rehovot for agriculture, one at Givat Raam (Jerusalem City) for natural sciences, a medical campus in Ein Kerem and the Mount Scopus Campus for social sciences and the humanities. It was founded in 1918 at Mt. Scopus, opened on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1925 with three faculties and has now seven faculties with ca. 20 000 students.

During our stay we visited Givat Raam, Mount Scopus and Rehovot. Our primary contact person was Liora Haver, Administrative Director of **“The Advanced School for Environmental Studies”**, who elaborated a very dense and interesting program for us. On every site we were taken around for a short survey and had the opportunity to talk to the staff on-site about the activities regarding green IT and sustainability. The people we encountered received us very kindly and everyone was committed to give us an interesting time. Above all, we gained insights in the history of the university, its social and geographical environment and the special challenges it is confronted with.



Opening ceremony on Mount Scopus in 1925.

This became particularly evident at the Botanical Garden on Mount Scopus, which was shown to us by Dr. Meni Neuman, head of the **Green Campus Committee**. Meni introduced us to sustainability projects at Hebrew University as comprehensive endeavors comprising environmental, social and scientific issues. The Botanical Garden offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area with Arabic villages very close to the university campus. During political crisis, this direct neighborhood causes tensions and sometimes-even violence against university staff and students.



View with HUJI logo from Botanical Garden through School for Advanced Studies (first LEED silver standard building of HUJI campus) to East Jerusalem.

Because of the difficult situation of Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular, we learned, that unfortunately but understandably enough, sustainability is not in the main focus of society. Safety issues and the organization of daily life in an unsecure environment seem more urgent than long-term strategies for e.g. alternative energy or recycling of plastic waste. Nonetheless, many activities are initiated to save energy and to ensure the stable supply with water and food.

Sustainability issues constantly change e.g. from providing enough food to not poisoning the population with pesticides to water issues and adaption to changing climate conditions. Prof. Yitzhak Hadar (founding head of the School for Environment Studies at the Hebrew University) explained this to us during a tour of Rehovot Campus. Rehovot is situated in a rural environment close to Tel Aviv and the Mediterranean Sea. It is dedicated to agricultural research. Rehovot campus is home to the only building the Berlin born architect Erich Mendelsohn realized out of his plan for the complete campus of Hebrew University.



Main administration building at Rehovot campus.

In the **IT-Department**, our host was Dalia Alev, Head of IT-Services at the Computer Unit. In the course of our discussions, many parallels in measures for Green IT between programs at Hebrew University and Freie Universität Berlin became apparent:

- There is central printing, no workplace printers anymore
- Printers are set on duplex by default
- Duplex printing is encouraged by discounts to students who use it
- Server consolidation/centralization from the different campuses is done as green initiative
- Computing services are moved to the cloud
- Managed computers have central energy saving setups
- Buying policy for PCs is 80% power efficiency
- All new computers are energy certified
- Several computer farms with up to 300 PCs are operated with energy management and shutdown at closing time
- Computer farms are changed to thin clients
- Introducing paperless processes is seen as an important move towards economizing resources
- Virtual classrooms give opportunity for remote studies to reduce travel efforts between campuses



Dalia Alev with the real-time service overview panel of her team

All in all everybody concedes that HUJI is home to many green initiatives but communication and awareness around this, needs to be strengthened. In the perspective of the Israelis we met, Germany is an example in sustainability and has a very good image on that score.

We would like to thank our hosts and colleagues at Hebrew University for the insightful exchange and discussions. We look forward to continue the exchange of best practices with HUJI.