



The Nippon Foundation & Cities of Excellence Network

'Mind The Gap'

Empowering weaker local municipalities in Israel

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Cities of Excellence Network

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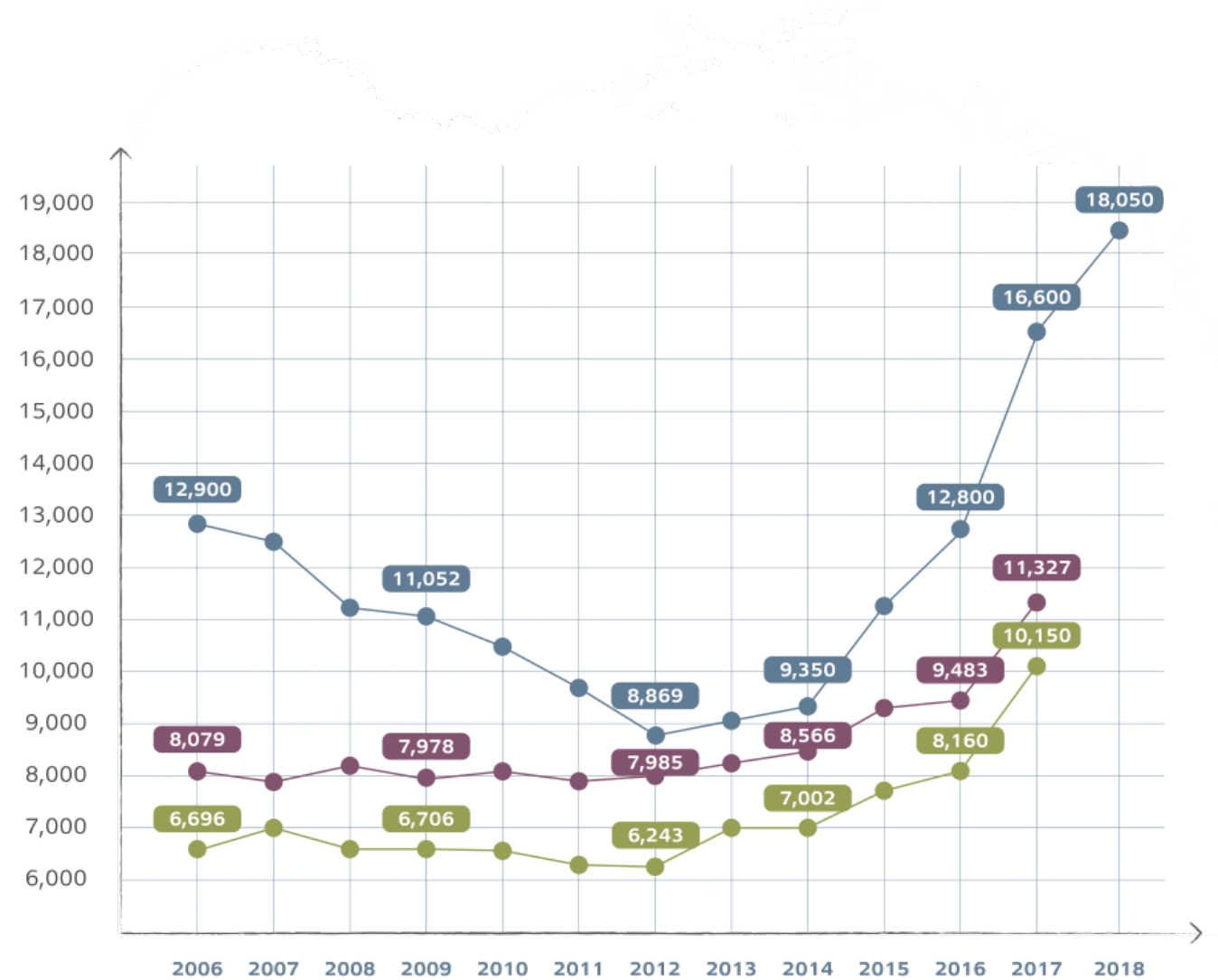
The studies of Math and Science in Israel

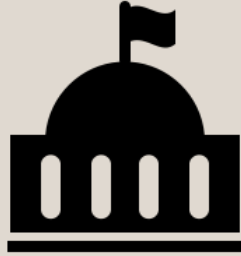


Five years ago, the number of Israeli students opting for advanced level math and science was at a disturbing low. A nation-wide campaign resulted in significant increase in the number of students that successfully passed the 5-unit matriculation test (highest level) in math and science.

Within 5 years, the number of Israeli students that have successfully passed the 5-unit math matriculation exams has doubled.

Number of Math And Science students





The role and responsibility of municipalities

As the successful 5-year campaign wound down the question was: “who’s role and responsibility it is to maintain and grow the achievements reached so far?”

We identified municipalities to be major players in promoting excellence; therefore, initiated by the Trump Foundation and executed by Tel Aviv University’s Institute for Local Governance the COE – Cities of Excellence – Network was established.



Cities of Excellence Network



COE Network is an infrastructure and a center for shared activities and knowledge exchange for local municipalities.

Member municipalities are required to set goals for excellence and to demonstrate commitment to promote excellence in math and science studies, with emphasis on 5-unit level.

COE Network Objectives



Creating a common base for discussing collective concerns and facilitating collaborative thinking to promote excellence in math and science.

Learning from success as well as from procedures that were tested and yielded partial success or none at all.

Developing relationships with foreign COE Networks and with thought leading municipalities in the field of education abroad.

Echoing the extensive knowledge gained by each municipality.

Promoting joint processes and providing lateral solutions -- locally or regionally – supporting numerous municipalities at a time.

Emphasizing excellence and empowering participating municipalities.

COE Activities



Assembling mayors, council members in charge of education and heads of education departments.

Organizing national and international conferences

Distribution of professional tools and knowledge using digital and in-person methods

Training program for municipal excellence managers

Training program for professional consultants to local municipalities

A yearly detailed report -- Excellence in education in Israel – featuring data analysis and evaluation of trends and progress of high-level math and science studies in Israeli high schools.

The network's partners

The Institution for Local Governance
Of the Tel Aviv university

The Trump foundation

The Federation of Local Authorities in Israel

The Head of Education Departments Union

Criteria for joining the forum



- The municipality will trend up in the number of math and science students that study at the 5-unit level and in their grades over the last three years.
- A municipality that peak in achievements relative to its potential and to municipalities with similar socio-economic characteristics shall maintain its high achievements.
- The municipality's management is data driven and it is capable of presenting a current view of its level of excellence.
- The municipality will update annually its plan and realistic objectives for improving or maintaining achievements in math and science 5-unit matriculation tests. The plan will be signed by the mayor and the head of education department.

Criteria for joining the forum



- The municipality will conduct at least one program for promoting excellence.
- The municipality will establish a local excellence forum which will include the local stakeholders.
- The municipality commits to appoint an officer as the head of the local excellence, to train him and to give him the required tools for performing his work, including his participation in the municipal excellence managers' network
- The admittance of the municipality to the network will be reviewed every three years, based on its achievements and meeting the abovementioned criteria.

The paradox

The COE network is selective, choosing its members among the municipalities according to the abovementioned criteria.

Consequently, some of the weaker municipalities are left out of the network, and thus socio-economic gaps in Israel are widening.

Society in Israel

Israel's variety of diverse groups with unique educational requirements sets a huge challenge in education and calls for special attention to each of the groups:

- **The Arab society** - is about 21% of Israel's population
- **The Orthodox society** - is about 17% of Israel population
- **Geographic periphery** – municipalities in the South (14%) and in the Norths (16%)
- **Social periphery** – Municipalities of social-economic cluster 4 of 10 and below (31%)

Israel Vs. Japan – educational inequality in developed world

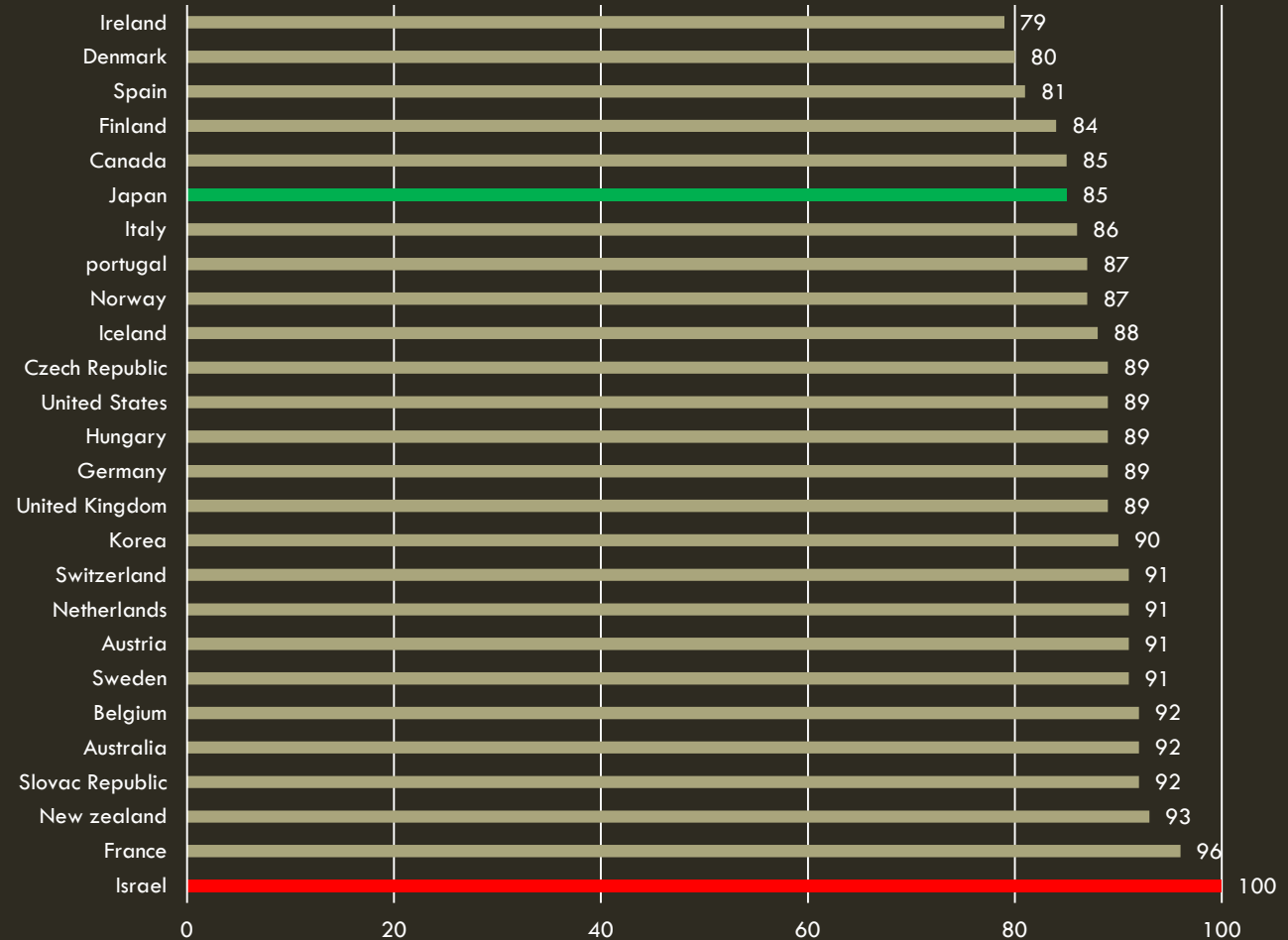
Israel's student achievements in a recent math PISA exam (2015), put Israel close to the bottom of the developed countries' ranking, with **the most significant inequality** in the developed world.

Japan, for example, has a **significant equality** in the achievements of its student.

Educational Inequality in Developed World

Pisa 2015

Average gaps in achievement levels in 25 OECD countries and Israel National average standard deviation in math, science and reading exams. Israel is the base (100)



Source: Dan Ben-David and Tel Aviv University.

Data: Pisa

The vision

The proposed project is to build a partnership between the Nippon foundation and COE Network for empowering weaker local municipalities.

We strive to make a significant positive social impact on excluded populations in Israel; specifically those who continuously suffer from social and economical barriers across the board and more so in education.

The network will hold laser-focused activities geared towards municipalities in the geographical and social periphery, so that they will be able to meet the criteria for participating in the Cities of Excellence Network.

The vision - continued

Promoting excellence among weaker municipalities will generate transformation at three levels:

The personal level – enhancing self confidence and sense of capability in children

The municipal level – creating local pride and improving the earning potential of its residents, resulting in positive emigration to the city.

The national level - reducing gaps in Israeli society while developing human capital of Israel.

The mission

Municipalities from geographical and socio-economic periphery will participate in the COE Network proportionally to their share of Israeli population, while maintaining the professional level of the network.

The goals for the next 3 years

The number of municipalities in the COE Network will grow from 30 to **60** where at least half of them are municipalities belonging to the social periphery (socio-economic index of 4 and below) effecting additional **250,000** children.

20% of the municipalities in the COE Network will be Arab municipalities, reflecting the percentage of the Arab-Israeli population in Israel.

Sources	USD	NIS	Uses	USD	NIS
The Nippon foundation	200,000	700,000	Project Manager	160,000	560,000
Membership fees	150,000	525,000	Venues	20,000	70,000
The Trump foundation	115,000	402,500	Hospitality	80,000	280,000
Income from activities	20,000	700,00	Academic consultation	10,000	35,000
Other foundations	30,000	105,000	Branding and design	10,000	35,000
Sponsorships	15,000	525,00	Public relations	30,000	105,000
			Internet site + Newsletter	30,000	105,000
			Annual excellence report	40,000	140,000
			lectures	15,000	52,500
			The institute administration	25,000	87,500
			University overheads	80,000	280,000
			Municipal excellence managers training course	25,000	87,500
			Municipal professional consultants training course	5,000	17,500
Total	530,000	1,855,000	-	530,000	1,855,000



Thank you!

