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## פרויקט לחקר דת תרבות ושלום

פקולטה למדעי החברה

## Project for the Study of Religion Culture and Peace

Faculty of Social Sciences

# Results Summation—Quantitative Data Composite IEA Dialogue Groups 2014

**Background:** The following four tables represent the composite quantitative data results measuring perception change of the participants in the several IEA dialogue groups earlier assessed from the qualitative perspective.

Arab and Jewish participants were asked to fill out questionnaries in June 2014 asking for their perceptions of the other side from both the perspective of <u>before</u> participating in dialogue activity and also from their current perspective (<u>after</u>). Participants were first asked to identify their perceptions in the category of "contact willingess" which refers to willingess for contact in a variety of circumstances with the other group.

The second category of "characteristics" refers to perceptions of personality traits of the "other" both "before" and "after" participating in the dialogue groups. The participants were asked for the their responses based on a five number scale, with one denoting the most favorable perception of the other group and five denoting the most negative perception.

(The questionnaire items appear in the appendix and test the two general categories of "contact willingnes" and "characteristics" in which the composite statistics appear in the tables below).

Tables I and II record composite data results both before and after in the category of "contact willingnes".

Tables III and IV record composite data results both before and after in the category of group "characteristics."

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#### Table I. Before Dialogue—Contact Willingness

Group (score)-	No. of Respondents	Willingness for Contact		
Arabs	21	2.35		
Jews	11	2.45		

#### Table II. After Dialogue—Contact Willingness

Group (score)-	No. of Respondents	Willingness for Contact			
Arabs	21	2.03			
Jews	9	2.06			

#### Table III. Before Dialogue—Perception of Characteristics

Group	No. of Respondents	Perceptions of Other (score)-				
Arabs	21	2.96				
Jews	10	3.25				

#### Table IV. After Dialogue—Perception of Characteristics

Group	No. of Respondents	Perceptions of Other (score)-
Arabs	21	2.99
Jews	10	2.41

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#### **Interpretation and Significance:**

As can be seen the overall direction of the data shows a strengthening of existing positive dispositions following the dialogue work. (The one exception is the perception of "characteristics by Arabs towards Jews which did not change.)

The quantitative analysis corroborates the main findings of our qualitative report that the core participants in IEA were generally favorably disposed towards the "other" with a general willingness to engage; however these tendencies were strengthened as a result of the dialogue and relationship building activities. This indicates a discernible impact of the work of the dialogue activities and has important implications for maintaining "peace willingness" on the part of the core participants, which is not to be taken for granted in today's environment. While a key challenge remains the expansion of the core group towards an increased number of participants from larger circles in both Jewish and Arab society, the maintenance of strengthening of relationships and perceptions of each side towards the other has important positive implications indicating the efficacy of the inter-religious approach to dialogue and peace building.

#### Prepared and Submitted by:

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#### **APPENDIX A: ITEMS**

# (Note: This questionnaire appeared in Hebrew and a parallel version in Arabic was distributed to Arab students).

In the following questionnaire you will find questions followed by a number of possible answers. Please circle the answers most suitable to your opinion.

- 1) To what degree would you consider meeting Arab students from the territories?
- 2) Would you be willing to become friends with Arab students from the territories?
- 3) Would you be willing to assist an Arab student from the territories?
- 4) Would you be willing to dine in an Arab (from the territories) and Jewish joint dining room (at separate tables)?
- 5) Would you be willing to sit in a dining room next to an Arab student from the territories?
- 6) In Places were Arabs and Jews live together, how do you find the attitude of the Arabs towards the Jews?
- 7) If you had to determine whether Arabs from the territories would study at your university, what would you do?
- 8) Do you think that the participation of Arabs from the territories in a joint study framework can contribute to Jews?
- 9). What is the attitude of Arab students towards Jewish students?
- 10). Are you interested in the problems of Arabs from the territories?
- 11). Are you satisfied with the Arabs from the territories that you meet?
- 12). In your opinion how do the Arabs from the territories feel towards the Jews?
- 13). How do Arabs from the territories relate to you when you meet with them?
- 14). What is the attitude of Arabs from the territories towards Jews?
- 15). Would you be willing to discuss issues not concerning studies, such as family matters, with Arabs from the territories?

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		Facu	lty of S	Social	Scienc	es		
16). Are you willing to meet Arabs from the territories outside of the usual meeting places?								
17). Are you ready to visit Arab students from the territories?								
18). How do you th	ink the A	rabs fro	m the to	erritorie	s evalu	ate the S	State of Is	srael?
19). How do you th	ink the co	ontact be	etween	Jews an	nd Arab	s from t	he territo	ries should be?
20). In your opinion	n, are visi	ts of Ar	abs fror	n the te	rritories	s essenti	al?	
21). In your opinior	n can Jew	s, and A	rabs fro	om the t	territori	es live p	peacefully	y together?
In the following questions we would like to know how you see (picture) the Arabs from the territories. The described qualities refer to Arabs from the territories.								
22). Unsocial	l				3			Social
	/	б	5	4	3	2	1	
23). Lazy	l <u> </u>	6	5	4	3	2	l	Diligent
24). Unpleasant	l <u> </u>	6	5	4	3	2	l	Pleasant
25). Practical	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Impractical
26). Irresponsible	7	6	5	4	3	2	l	Responsible
27). Unstable	I							Stable

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## Project for the Study of Religion Culture and Peace

Faculty of Social Sciences

28). Uncooperative	I	6	5	4	3	2		Cooperative
	/	U	3	4	3	2	1	
29). Hostile	I							Supportive
	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
30). Ineffective	I						l	Effective
	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

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APPENDIX B

FACTOR (A)	Considered willingness of subject to have contact with other side (Direct attitude) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11
FACTOR (B)	Inquired into the subject's perception of him/her (Perception) 9, 12, 13, 14
FACTOR (C)	Considered willingness of subject to have contact in other areas (Contact willingness) 7, 15, 16, 17
FACTOR (D)	Assessed general attitude regarding the other side (General attitude) 10, 18, 19, 20, 21
FACTOR (E)	This factor examined how each side evaluates the other's characteristics (Traits) 22-30