

## Peacecamp 2015 – feedback4peace Assessment

A few weeks after the peacecamp all the participants were asked to answer a feedback questionnaire. The assessment of peacecamp 2015 is based on 40 returned questionnaires (all of the 34 youngsters and 6 of the adults). As in the previous years, it is again a very positive summary of the whole peacecamp experience.

Group:	Jewish	Arab	Hungarian	Austrian	Adults	Total
Replies:	8	9	8	9	6	40

### 1. Please rate the peacecamp-related elements/activities on a scale

The following items represent different activities and elements of the peacecamp. The participants were asked to rate each item on a scale from 1 (very satisfying) to 5 (very unsatisfying). We calculated the average mean for each item and each group as well as for the total group of participants. The results can be seen in the following table:

	Group					
	Jewish	Arab	Hungarian	Austrian	Adults	Total
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
The Place/Village	1,38	1,33	1,37	1,56	1,17	1,38
The Youth Hostel	1,13	1,89	1,63	1,89	1,33	1,60
The Restaurant/Food	1,50	3,56	1,38	2,11	1,83	2,13
The Large Group	2,13	2,75	1,75	1,67	1,67	2,00
Work out with Annphie	1,71	1,78	1,00	1,56	1,60	1,53
Creating a Logo	1,57	2,56	1,50	1,89	1,40	1,84
Outdoor, Music and Fun	1,63	1,44	1,13	1,22	1,00	1,31
Expectations met	1,38	2,00	1,38	1,78	1,67	1,65
Talks4Peace Workshops	1,63	2,11	1,25	2,22	1,60	1,79
Culture Evenings	1,50	1,44	1,13	1,11	2,17	1,43
Vienna Sight Seeing	1,00	1,22	1,25	1,67	2,50	1,42
Show4Peace Lackenhof	1,88	2,33	1,13	2,44	1,60	1,92
Show4Peace Vienna	1,63	1,33	1,00	1,33	1,00	1,28
Timetable/Structure	1,38	2,33	1,37	1,75	1,80	1,74
Free Time	1,25	2,33	1,50	1,75	2,20	1,79
Peacecamp Experience	1,38	2,00	1,00	1,25	1,33	1,41

The results show that the participants enjoyed the peacecamp overall. In total, only two out of 16 items got a rating of 2.00 or below, which means that all peacecamp elements and activities were in average rated “very satisfying” or “satisfying”. The Peacecamp Experience item scored a total of 1.41, while it is interesting that the Hungarian group gave it a straight 1.00 and the Arab group a 2.00.

Highest rated element this year is the Show4Peace in Vienna with a total of 1.28, while the Show in Lackenhof achieved a bit of a lower score with 1.92. Other top results are Outdoor, Music and fun with Lukas, Caroline, Annphie and Alex (1.31) as well as the place / village Lackenhof (1.38). Vienna Sight Seeing (1.42) and the Culture Evenings (1.43) were very well liked by the young participants, while the Adult group rated these a bit lower. The Work out with Annphie scored a total of 1.53, with the Hungarian group giving it a straight 1.00.

The participants were satisfied with the Youth Hostel (1.60), and also with the food (2.13) – even though here the Arab group was rather unsatisfied (3.56). The overall food-rating shows an improvement compared to last year’s result of 3.03.

This year’s Large Group showed a slight improvement to last year as well (2.00 compared to 2.61), with ratings ranging from 1.67 (Austrian group and Adults) to 2.75 (Arab group). The Talks4Peace Workshops were especially liked by the Hungarian group (1.25), while the Austrians “only” gave it 2.22, resulting in an overall rating of 1.79. The participants were also satisfied with the activity of Creating a Logo (1.84), with the Arab group rating it a bit lower (2.56).

According to further feedback, the participants well liked their free time together, but it cannot be properly shown by the rating itself (1.79) – many of them rated it as “satisfying” or lower because of a “lack of free time”. The overall structure and timetable of the peacecamp scored a total average rating of 1.74, similar to last year. The question, if peacecamp 2015 met the expectation of the participants got a total average score of 1.65, meaning their expectations got satisfied.

## 2. Which three things did you like best in the peacecamp?

The participants were asked to nominate up to three things which they particularly liked during the peacecamp. Because of the fact that their answers were all phrased differently we classified them in categories. The category “others” consist of items nominated only twice or less. The following table shows how often each category was mentioned by the participating groups:

What did you like best?	Group					
	Jewish	Arab	Hungarian	Austrian	Adult	Total
	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl
People	5	5	6	4	5	25
Outdoor Activities	4	2	2	1	2	11
Free Time	3	1	3	3	0	10
Large Group	2	0	0	6	2	10
New Cultures	1	5	2	2	0	10
New Experience	2	1	2	2	2	9
Overcoming difficulties	1	2	2	1	2	8
Atmosphere	1	2	0	2	2	7
Making Music	3	1	0	2	0	6
Vienna	1	4	1	0	0	6
Show4Peace	1	1	2	0	1	5
Food	1	0	2	1	0	4
Place	0	2	1	0	0	3
Talks4Peace	0	0	1	1	1	3
Others (2 or less)	0	1	2	0	1	4
Respondants	8	9	8	9	6	40

The participant particularly enjoyed meeting new people and the company of the other delegations (25 mentions). They liked the different activities, especially the ones outdoor (11), and of course the free time they could spend together (10). The Austrian delegation well liked the Large Group sessions, mentioned by 6 people or 2/3 of the group, compared to 10 people or 1/4 overall. Getting to know new cultures (10) and making fun new experiences (9) was mentioned a lot as well. The participants liked the process of overcoming difficulties and getting back together after having heavy political arguments (8), thanks to the peaceful and productive atmosphere at the peacecamp (7). They enjoyed making music together (6), visiting and spending the last night in Vienna (5) as well as the Show4Peace (5), Talks4Peace (3) and the place and nature in Lackenhof (3). Four participants liked the food, especially the things brought by the other delegations.

### 3. Which three things did you dislike?

The participants were asked to nominate up to three things which they did not like in the peacecamp. The different mentioned elements were classified again and can be seen in the table below:

What did you dislike?	Group					
	Jewish	Arab	Hungarian	Austrian	Adult	Total
	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl
Little Freetime	3	3	2	2	1	11
Arguments	4	3	1	2	0	10
Large Group	1	3	0	1	1	6
Bedtime	1	2	1	2	0	6
Too short	1	1	0	3	1	6
Time outside village	1	3	1	0	0	5
Food	0	4	0	0	1	5
Long Sessions	1	1	0	2	0	4
Place	0	1	1	2	0	4
Lack of continuity	3	0	0	0	0	3
Exhausting	0	0	0	1	2	3
No WiFi	1	1	0	0	0	2
Other (2 or less)	5	2	3	2	4	16
Respondants	8	9	8	9	6	40

As in previous years, the participants very much enjoyed the free time they could spend together, and therefore felt like they didn't get enough of it (11 mentions). They also weren't big fans of the strict bedtime (6) and some found the different sessions to be too long at once (4). But all in all they felt the peacecamp was too short (6), they'd like to have some form of continuity (3) and wish for a reunion. They also responded that it would have been nice to spend some more time outside of the village (5), four people also disliked the place and thought it was boring, and two participants missed the WiFi.

Especially the Jews (4, half of the group) and Arabs (3, 1/3 of the group) didn't like the political arguments (10 mentions total) they had. The Large Group was also mentioned six times.

#### 4. Please list what you have learned / taken home from the peacecamp

The participants were asked to nominate up to three things they have learned at or taken home from the peacecamp. The answers were again put into categories and can be seen in the table below:

What have you learnt / taken home?	Group					
	Jewish	Arab	Hungarian	Austrian	Adult	Total
	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl
Different views	3	5	1	3	3	15
Open Minded	3	1	3	2	2	11
Friends	0	2	4	3	1	10
Respect others	3	2	1	2	1	9
Cultures	0	3	3	2	1	9
Other Situation	1	3	0	4	0	8
Speak out Opinion	2	1	2	1	1	7
Patience	2	1	2	0	2	7
Meaning of peace	0	2	2	3	0	7
Good memories	0	1	2	2	1	6
Hope for Peace	1	1	0	2	1	5
We are all the same	0	2	1	1	1	5
Teamwork	1	0	1	1	0	3
Listening	1	0	1	0	1	3
Work for Change	1	0	0	1	1	3
Others (2 or less)	3	3	0	2	1	9
Respondants	8	9	8	9	6	40

When asked what the participants took home from the peacecamp, their top answer was hearing about and learning to accept the different views of others (15 mentions). They learnt how important it is to be open minded (11) and to respect others and their opinions (9), while speaking out your own opinion (7). They made new friends (9), got to know other cultures (9), learnt about the situations and problems in different parts of the world (8) and came to the conclusion that we're all actually not so different from each other (5). The participants experienced the importance of patience (7) and working as a team (3), and that it takes a lot of effort to work for change (3). They opened up for different meanings of peace (7) and gained hope for a possibility to eventually achieve peace (5).

## 5. What would you improve in the next peacecamps?

The answers to the question of “what should be improved” show that the participants were all in all very satisfied with the peacecamp experience. Here are the things they would improve in the next peacecamp:

What would you like to improve?	Group					
	Jewish	Arab	Hungarian	Austrian	Adult	Total
	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl	Anzahl
Continuity	1	4	1	2	0	8
Food	1	3	1	2	0	7
Large Group structure	4	0	1	1	0	6
Free Time	1	1	1	3	0	6
More outside village	1	2	0	1	0	4
Structure	0	0	0	0	3	3
Direct Dialogue	0	1	0	0	1	2
Other place/country	0	0	0	2	0	2
Equal Assignments	1	0	0	0	1	2
Others (1 or less)	0	1	1	0	3	5
Direct Dialogue	0	1	0	0	1	2

The participants’ biggest wish is for more continuity (8), to have some kind of reunion and to be able to spend more time together after the peacecamp itself. Seven people would like to see change in the food situation, for example more variety, less meat, not always soup for dinner. They’d also like to have a better structured large group (6), equal times to speak for each delegation, and topic suggestions especially in the first sessions, as well as a more direct dialogue (2). Of course the participants would love to spend more free time together (6) and spend more time outside the village (4), like a trip to a different place or another night in Vienna. Three participants of the adult group suggested structural improvements, especially concerning the timetable and the inclusion of Arab adults. It was also mentioned that the group assignments should be treated equal for every delegation.

## 6. Please make a final statement about peacecamp

At the end of the feedback questionnaire the participants were asked to make a final statement about the peacecamp. As in the previous years, they describe the peacecamp as a great, unforgettable and unique experience where they could try out a lot of new things, made new friends and had a lot of fun together. It changed their way to look at life and made them more confident in who they are. Participants called peacecamp “the best thing that happened to me in my entire life”, “a really valuable project for our young generation” or “a turning point in my life, because earlier I was more intolerant and close-minded”, saying “you can’t come home without any individual development”. They thank everyone involved to make such an experience possible.