



Innovation Class in Ofakim

Innovation Class - The holistic solution

As part of the "Equitable Cities" initiative, we promote processes of community renewal and consolidation in a variety of fields, by expanding infrastructures and promoting holistic community solutions within the "COMMUNIHOODS" framework. The process is based on the construction of a sustainable urban management mechanism and the creation of an ecosystem for the city's residents that includes generating connections and exchanges between the education system and the community it serves.

Initiative goals

Acceleration of technological processes within the education system and in the community by facilitating access to multi-dimensional technological platforms.

Impact

- 400 children and youth participating weekly in the various Innovation Class programs
- 1,100 students choosing to study STEM subjects for their bagrut (matriculation) exams
- 70% of participants develop soft skills and a sense of capability and motivation
- 60% of participants serve in the IDF in branches promoting social mobility

Target city and neighborhood – Kibbutz Galuyot in Ofakim:

The city of Ofakim is located in the Western Negev and contains 40,000 residents. Ofakim is located within the 3rd cluster in Israel's socio-economic index (with 1 being the lowest) and the city suffers from socio-economic gaps, negative migration, and a diminished sense of community.

Currently, the city is undergoing a development boom and is at a significant crossroads with enormous economic, demographic, and community potential.

The "Kibbutz Galuyot" neighborhood is one of Ofakim's older neighborhoods, with nearly 2,000 residents.

In March-April of 2022, a study was carried out among residents of the Kibbutz Galuyot neighborhood within the framework of the "Medina LeMofet" initiative. The purpose of the study was to examine the residents' social resilience and to pinpoint the main social challenges which concerned them.

The research found that many of the residents are working in professions which are in danger of undergoing significant changes in the coming years and are likely to experience significant changes in the manner of employment and skills required of the workers. In addition, the research indicated relatively low neighborhood resilience as well as low community involvement. Strengthening these elements through the development of infrastructures, innovative tools, and mechanisms will help the neighborhood residents express their abilities, skills and ensure personal-economic-employment resilience for them and their families.

We believe that the double role of the Innovation Class – developing technological abilities among young people while serving as a facilitating social space – will respond to the neighborhood's challenge.



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Along with the Ofakim Education Department we are considering two options for operating the class:

Option 1:

- Running it as part of the innovation complex at the heart of the Kibbutz Galuyot neighborhood

Option 2:

- Operation as part of an educational institution



Infrastructures:

- Computer lab
- Automation complex [robotics | drones, etc.]
- Makers and technological creativity complex

Target audience:

- Children and youth
- Community of young people
- Public at large

Project Budget:

Field	Article	Number	Cost per unit NIS	Total
Computer lab	Computers	20	3,000	60,000
	Programs	20	200	4,000
Automation complex	Robotic kit	5	9,000	45,000
	Drone kit	10	1,500	15,000
Makers	Makers' control panel	5	1,300	6,500
	3D printer	4	11,000	44,000
	3D program license	20	500	10,000
Infrastructure & renovation	Building infrastructure	1	50,000	50,000
	Network infrastructure	1	9,000	9,000
	Furniture	1	40,000	40,000
Operation	Technological instruction	12	3,500	42,000
Unforeseen expenses		1	15,000	15,000
Total NIS				340,500

