**Higher Education Learning – How to Protect the Environment**

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“Green Ambassadors” is an academic course, which is open for all students of Holon Institute of Technology, an academic institution located in the central Israel. This course was developed as an action learning course that combines academic learning and social involvement of the students. In an academic part, the students learn environmental and renewable energy topics and in the social involvement part, students teach young school pupils in an experiential way. In order to illustrate the environmental topics, and to achieve high participation levels of the pupils, the students create a mobile laboratory containing experiments and demonstrations, in which the pupils take an active part. Via games and activities, the pupils learn what renewable energy means, how to turn waste into a resource, what is soil contamination, etc.

To achieve the most social impact, the course is based on an “Israeli Hope in Academia” program, designed by the former president of the state of Israel, Mr. Reuven Rivlin. This program acts to encourage a more diverse and culturally competent higher education system that promotes partnership between four principal sectors of the Israeli society: secular Jews, religious Jews, Haredi (ultra-orthodox) Jews, and Arabs. One of the means to achieve this goal is to create meaningful educational interactions between people from academia and the younger generation of these sectors. Thus, “Green Ambassadors” course reaches diverse communities of the Israeli society and meets not only academic and experiential learning challenges, but also language-based barriers, different levels of basic knowledge of the children, cultural issues, etc. The students not only gain an academic knowledge, they engage with social organizations, institutions and state authorities and perform practical work with diverse populations. The children learn important environmental topics in a project-based learning format and become “Green ambassadors” for spreading this message to their families and friends.

In this presentation we will talk about the “Israeli Hope” program and the “Green Ambassadors” course, as well as the methodology used to achieve the course’s goals. Finally, we will discuss the success levels of the course.

**Keywords:** Environmental Education, Experiential Learning, Renewable Energy