Iain Jones,

Special Issue Editor,

Studies in the Education of Adults

# Re: Call for Papers for Special Issue on Lived experience, learning, community activism and social change

Dear Mr. Jones,

In response to your call for papers for the forthcoming special issue of *Studies in the Education of Adults* on “Lived experience, learning, community activism and social change,”, I am pleased to enclose our draft abstract on community and professional organizations for integrating the ultra-Orthodox population into Israel’s high-tech labor market.

As part of a research team of The Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) Institute for Policy Studies in Jerusalem, during the last year we study strategies for integrating the Ultra-Orthodox group in Israel into the High-Tech labor market.

The ultra-Orthodox population in Israel constitutes about 12% of the total population and is growing at a particularly rapid rate. Conciliation policy in education and labor (Lijphart, 1969, 1977, Israel) allowed autonomy for various minority groups in Israel, including the Ultra-Orthodox community. Ultra-Orthodox formal educational frameworks do not provide for education in core subjects such as Mathematics and English and the population often have no internet access. Due to religious and community values, a significant portion of the community members do not integrate into the labor market and especially not into the high-tech professions. As a result, over the years, a poor population was created, with particularly low education and income rates.

A research group of the Ultra-Orthodox Institute for Policy Studies was organized in collaboration with professional, community and academic organizations and groups to promote the integration of the Ultra-Orthodox population interested in integrating into the high-tech labor market.

The article will describe the organization התארגנות processes of the institute's staff to promote the integration of the Ultra-Orthodox population into the High-Tech labor market - the composition of the research team within the institute, the partnerships formed with groups from the ultra-Orthodox community in Israel and professionals in the government and third sector.

Alongside, the article will present the key insights following qualitative and quantitative data collection conducted, and the steps of public policy that have been formulated following these work processes, and against the background of the lack of basic professional knowledge and familiarity with the Israeli labor market, regarding, - duration and objectives of the process, processes for locating and sorting potential employees, forming a tailored training program (including studies to complete basic education, imparting personal and interpersonal skills, training content), placement components at the end of training, scholarships and mentoring required for new entrants into the labor market, and monitoring and evaluation programs.

The joint work has recently led to preliminary steps of changing government policy for the ultra-Orthodox population in this area.

Thank you for considering our proposal. I would be very happy, on behalf of all the authors of the paper, to provide any other information you require, and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Chen Lifshitz, Faculty of Social Work,

Ashkelon Academic College

Ashkelon, Israel.

[chenl@erech-nosaf.co.il](mailto:chenl@erech-nosaf.co.il) mobile: +922-50-3109162