opportunities, challenges and obstacles in academe-community partnerships

Ruti Donag, Technion, Israel
Living Knowledge conference, Dublin 2016
Social Hub Technion

- Established at the Technion in 2011
- Promotes academe-community partnerships
- Started at the Architecture and Town Planning department
- Expanded to include 4 additional departments
- Supported by the Higher Council of Education

Environmental Policy/ Prof. Daniel Orenstein, activists and residents’ tour, Kiryat Haim 2016
Urban Laboratory *

- Issues brought up by the municipality
- Match between the city and its needs with the university and its resources
- Courses from diverse university departments work at the same city
- Ideas developed during the year presented to the city

* Based on Sustainable City Year Program of the University of Oregon – the “Oregon Model”
Opportunities

- Exposing cities to innovative knowledge
- Improve outcomes for cities and universities, create synergy
- Students get to experience in “real world” dilemmas
- Strengthening academe relevance
- Long-term partnerships and dialogue

Architecture studio/ Prof. Rachel Kallus and Arch. Claudio Millul, students meet with the city staff, Nesher 2015. Photo by Technion Press Office
Challenges outside the ivory tower

- Gaps in goals, aims and schedules of participants
- New tools and methods required for out of campus activities
- Difficulties in recruiting partners within the academe
- Logistics
- Municipality = community?
- Interests and politics
- Ethical issues

Introduction to the city of Akko, 2016. Photo by Ruti Donag
Thank You!

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