



The Academy for Quality Government in Israel

The Academy for Quality Government in Israel (AQG) is an independent non-profit organization aimed at developing a social climate based on Democratic values, ethics, and the creation of a discourse of good governance standards of ethical public service in Israel. To achieve its mission for a better democratic and ethical Israeli society, the AQG is developing educational programs and empowering tools for civil leaders and civil service personnel, combined with research and development of policy as well as programs aimed at providing effective response to the issues at hand.

The AQG was founded as an educational institute in 2001 by The Movement for Quality Government in Israel (MQG). The mission of the MQG is to promote good governance for the people of Israel. Founded in 1990, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, MQG has become one of Israel's largest grassroots organizations with close to 20,000 members and supporters.

The MQG believes in the role of education in order to advance the values of good citizenship, democracy and ethical conduct in public service. The centrality of this conviction and the growth of the MQG's educational activities led to the founding of a separate entity dedicated solely to teaching and instruction, The Academy for Quality Government in Israel (AQG).

The AQG's main activities are:

- » Educational programs for Quality Governance and Empowered Citizenship
- » Training activities for Ethics and Quality Governance Leadership and Service for municipalities, civil service and the business sector

The AQG in Numbers

■ Ethics Programs:

- » **Over 20 municipalities**, such as Haifa, Ashqelon, Ness Tsiona, Misgav, Nahef (the first Ethics Code to Arab Municipality) - 5 received the **International Transparency Acclamation**.
- » About **10,000 municipalities' workers** participated in the Ethics Programs.
- » **Over 10 Government ministries and agencies:** Ministry of Interior, Social Security, Police and more are engaged in Ethics code and related activities.
- » Over **5 public companies**, such as The Electric corp., Eilat- Ashkelon Pipeline.
- » **100's** of lectures and conventions for public institutions, such as Israel Police, IDF, Israel Social Security.
- » **Publishes the Annual National Survey of the Performance of Israel's Public Sector.**
- » **Developed a framework for the Annual Quality Governance Index.**
- » **Initiated the first Leadership and Citizenship course for municipalities' mayors.**

■ Educational Programs:

- » Over **15 Elementary Schools** participated in The Golden Rules Program
- » Over 3,000 elementary students' participants.
- » Leadership Program implemented in municipal Youth and Young Empowerment Clubs mostly in Israel periphery, including Daliat Carmel, Naharia, Ramle.
- » 5 City-wide 'Leadership Avenue' Programs in Kiryat-Gat, Jerusalem, Acco,
- » **3 Quality Governance websites, 28,000 entries per month.**
- » **Tens of thousands** of students who participated in **OMETZ the Active Citizenship Program** over 7 year period.

The Center of Civic Education

The AQG goal is to serve as one of the leading educational institutes in Israel, to promote the implementation of quality government, active citizenship and ethics, throughout the Israeli educational system.

The Center of Civic Education seeks to empower a new generation for Democracy, by initiating and implementing workshops promoting values and activities for active citizenship and civic awareness in a democratic society. Its activities target the formal and the a-formal educational spheres, to propagate core values of democracy, quality government and civic education. The workshops seek to nurture intellectual curiosity, constructive skepticism and social activism together with proper respect and understanding of the rule of law in Israel.

The Center's main projects:

- **The Golden Rules Program** – An Ethics Program in schools, engaging students, teachers and parents in holistic intervention program for elementary schools.
 - **Leadership Avenue** – Program directed foremost to high school and young leaders (20-30 years), to promote citizenship leadership to create change at local, grassroots level in municipalities and local governance.
 - **Civic Responsibility and Civic Involvement (OMETZ)** – An online program (e-learning) aimed at supplementing the civic studies with the teaching of democratic values, ethics and related topics, all adapted to the various levels of the Israeli system of education.
-

The Center for Ethics

The Center's objective of this Center is to train civil servants and public elected officials in the quality government and governmental ethics, as well as public sector.

The Center's unique curriculum fills a highly needed gap, in insufficient training of civil servants and public elected officials in citizenship leadership and service, creating low quality civil service in Israel.

The Center assists public companies to build an Ethics Code of Conduct, and to implement it in order to turn it into part of the daily behavior and corporate routines.

The Center of Governance

The Center tackles the questions of governance as the focal point of the unwritten covenant between state and citizens: the unspoken expectations of the citizens from their state's performance in satisfying their needs. Governance problems, the failure of the state to meet those needs and expectations, erode the belief and trust of the citizens in the state's ability to represent and execute the common will. The Center seeks to map out these issues and make them into a public discourse. To achieve this goal, the Center offers courses and workshops for elected officials and senior public servants, and developed the first framework in Israel for the Annual Quality Governance Index.

The Center for Leadership and Quality Governance

The Center serves as a think tank of the AQG, as it focuses on ways to inform, train, and lobby for improved and more effective leadership, primarily in the Civil Service in Israel. The Center works to develop standards and training for effective and ethical leadership in the Civil Service and municipalities. The program aims to serve as a 'watchtower', beaming and radiating, combined knowledge and academic high standards, with dissemination of its know-how.

The program has 3 core activities:

- **Research Ethics in Leadership** – Generate actionable academic research of quality governance, combining leadership with ethics. The Center will attempt to develop models, paradigm, curricula, and evaluation methods for these issues. The research will be in academic published standards, and will be disseminated via series of publications of position papers, technical papers, initiated conferences and seminars – all supported by online presence.
- **Teaching Ethics in Leadership** – The program will provide courses in academic standards. The courses will cover in-depth academic expansion of ethics in leadership drawing on knowledge from philosophy, religion, social science and more. At the same time, courses will be designed for practice: case studies, ethical dilemmas of leadership. For example, to launch the first Ethics and Quality Leadership for Civil Service in the local municipalities – one of Israel's largest and most complex governance.
- **Ethics in Leadership in the Public Eye** – The program will develop modes of access to considering the public view of ethics in leadership. This will be carried out by relying on web technologies to disseminate and provide knowledge, webinars, polling activities. This aspect will also initiate new standards to follow the public perceptions of ethics in leadership, using tools such as framework for the Annual Good Governance Index that the AQG designed.



Leadership Avenue



Young Children Parliament



Opposition Leader Debate



Ethics Code Presentation



School Ethics Code Poster



Ethics Code Preparations