

# The Haredi Institute for Public Affairs



The Haredi Institute presents President Herzog with the 100-Day Plan

## “The Most Advanced Algorithm for Studying Haredi Society”

“The changes brought about by the elections in Israel prove the necessity of the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs,” says Eli Paley, the Institute’s chairman and founder, in a special interview • Udi Ben-Dror, the Institute’s CEO: “The Israeli society cannot afford not to communicate with the Haredi population” • Dr. Eitan Regev about The Wohl data and information centre • **Special edition**



Udi Ben-dror (left) Eli Paley (center) and President Isaac Herzog (right)



Photo: Amos Ben Gershon

### About a Quarter of Pupils - in Pedagogically Flexible Schools

According to a study at the institute, that examined drop-out rates among 14–17-year-olds  
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### Opportunities and Challenges for Haredi Business Owners

What are the income gaps between Haredi and non-Haredi businesses? Why do Haredi businesses not seek assistance from the government? > [pg. 4](#)

Average Monthly Income for Business Owners

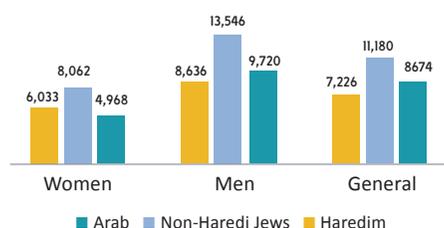


Photo: shutterstock

### Special Survey: 80% of Haredim Want Urban Renewal

Given this data, the Institute is launching a comprehensive study for the Government Authority for Urban Renewal  
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# Like the wave of immigration from Russia in the 90's, the "Haredi wave" will also accelerate the Israeli economy

**After another year of accomplishments, the staff at the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs are preparing to work with the new government • Chairman and founder, Eli Paley, talks about the singularity of the Institute. He is proud of the recognition by the government and explains why the Haredi society must become part of the bigger story of the State of Israel**

“By 2045, the Haredi sector will constitute 25% of the population of Israel. Integrating the Haredi society as the biggest success story of the State of Israel is something that everybody should be concerned with,” says Eli Paley, chairman and founder of the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs. “Previous governments’ policies and election campaigns have left ill will between the Haredi society and the general Israeli population. These sentiments are becoming a rift between the people of Israel. The meaning of this rupture is a weakening of all shared systems, and we cannot accept this. The work of the Institute provides an opportunity for decisionmakers in government and the economy to establish long-term programs with strategic planning deriving from a responsible outlook. Such a policy would necessarily reduce the friction in the discourse, restore faith in the governmental institutions and become a shared growth engine for the Haredi society and the economy,” Paley stresses.

We are presenting the new government with a vision and work plans for implementation, based on a unique, first-rate segmented database. The challenges that the Haredi society faces in housing, employment and the educational system require an implementable, long-term approach. The special ties forged between the Institute and local government and civil society, and between the researches of the Institute and government ministries, enable us to propose an effective policy that addresses all of the needs.

After years of closed mindedness, both sides have started to listen to each other, with the goal of cooperating. Unilateral, uncoordinated steps taken vis-à-vis the Haredi society failed, and there is need for a new policy. The Haredi society has also understood that short-term solutions do not enable it to make progress, and it must adopt long-term plans that meet governmental oversight and coordination standards.

## The leading institution for research pertaining to the Haredim

“In the seven years since it was established, the Institute has become the leading body in the field. It works within the Haredi society and can design policy that is relevant and applicable. It has an understanding of the Haredi society, knows how the government works and can combine all these together. This is the secret of our success,” says Paley.

“The Institute underwent an overhaul in 2022 and built infrastructure for the coming years in terms of human resources and in research



Photo: Nir Selkman

Eli Paley

infrastructure. We built a strong management when Udi Ben-Dror joined us as the Institute’s CEO, Adi Sisso-Juran as VP for Policy Planning, and we established a new Strategy and PR Department headed by Yakov Izak.”

Over the past year, the Institute, together with the Wohl Legacy, established the Wohl Data Centre, which is the most comprehensive and up-to-date database about the Haredi society, with quality, in-depth data at a level that does not exist in any other research institute in Israel. “We invite all policymakers and research bodies to use us and the best data available today.”

## The government’s faith in us

Over the past year, the Institute has become a leader in working with government ministries and municipalities on strategically planning activity related to the Haredi society. This includes creating a strategic plan for urban renewal in the Haredi society for the Ministry of Housing and Construction; creating a comprehensive database of the Haredi society for the Socio-Economic Development Authority for the Ultra-Orthodox Sector; mapping the Haredi society and its needs, and recommending courses of action to provide health services that are adapted to the community for the Ministry of Health. The Institute conducted several strategic studies on employment for major municipalities in Israel and is working with other municipalities on a range of issues.

## The third sector’s faith in us

Over the past year, the Institute has conducted several comprehensive studies for funds and NGOs that work with the Haredi sector. These funds are central to planning policy in many areas relating to the Haredi society. The studies included recommendations on employment, housing, academia, seminaries, Haredi youth, digitalization and other subjects related to all areas of life in the Haredi society.

## The 100-Day Plan for the new government The new government will have sizable Haredi representation. What actions do you plan to advance with it?

“The Institute’s staff recently completed writing the 100-Day Plan, which touches on the key issues that the government must address immediately. The plan includes recommendations for important steps that could be taken to increase the supply of housing for the Haredi society and for planning that is customized to the significant housing shortage.

“The plan deals with improving employment in the Haredi sector, for men and women, by significantly improving the quality of professional training and the mechanisms responsible for them. Furthermore, the plan deals with significantly integrating Haredim in the public sector, which is the heart of public activity in Israel.”

The Institute recommends creating strategic programs for education, health and welfare for the Haredi sector, which will be suited to the special needs of the community.

The plan proposes including the Haredi society in the national emergency services. There is currently no discourse that could enable suitable cooperation with the Haredi society. The civil society organizations that work in the Haredi sector could be a force multiplier in the ability of the emergency services to cope with the challenges they face.

The Institute proposes preparing a five-year plan for the socio-economic development of the Haredi society, and hopes to work on such a plan together with the Socio-Economic Development Authority for the Ultra-Orthodox Sector.

“I believe with all my heart that like the wave of immigration from Russia gave a boost to the Israeli economy in the ‘90s, the next wave to accelerate the economy will be the ‘Haredi wave’,” says Paley. “The day the obstacles are removed and the Haredi society can integrate as equals while expressing its unique characteristics, the next quantum leap in the Israeli economy will take place.”

# The economic development of the Haredi sector is among the most important missions of the Israeli society

**Udi Ben-Dror brings his vast experience in developing economic projects in Jerusalem to his new position as CEO of the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs, and he will implement it to lead his vision - promoting and integrating the Haredi sector in Israeli society**

**U**di Ben-Dror was appointed CEO of the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs after having served as Deputy General Manager for Finance and Business Development at the Jerusalem Development Authority, Manager of Budget and Regulation at Bezeq International, and in the Budgets Department at the Ministry of Finance. Throughout his career, Ben-Dror has managed groundbreaking projects in the area of training and employment for the Haredi sector in Jerusalem.

"I am excited to join the team of the Institute and to lead the most professional research body dealing with the Haredi Sector in Israel," says Ben-Dror. He explains that he started his new position with an understanding that integrating the Haredi population in the general Israeli society is a critical issue. "The connection between the Haredi population and other parts of Israel's society, and the socio-economic development of the Haredi society are the most important missions on the agenda in Israel. As someone who has gained experience in developing and promoting various programs for the Haredi sector, I view the Institute as being highly capable of leading policy and promoting



**Udi Ben-Dror**

strategic, groundbreaking programs in many fields, leading to a real difference."

The Haredi Institute for Public Affairs specializes in strategic planning, and developing, implementing and promoting policy related to the Haredi society in Israel, based on research and data. Alongside a comprehensive, unique database and processing capabilities, the Institute

excels in its in-depth understanding of the Haredi society and all the streams it comprises, and in its ongoing cooperation with the Haredi leadership.

"Today, the Haredi sector constitutes 13% of the Israeli population," explains Ben-Dror. "Within a few decades, it will be about a third of Israel's population. Today, every fourth child in the Israeli educational system is Haredi. It is a group that the Israeli society cannot afford not communicating with or integrating into all areas of life. On the other side, the Haredi population also understands that they cannot avoid cooperating with regard to these processes."

"The Haredi population and the entire Israeli society interact everywhere - in the job market, in the educational system, in housing, emergency services, etc.," Ben-Dror concludes. "The Institute has built research capabilities on the Haredi society that no other research body in Israel has. The task of the Institute is to design policy for the organizations that work with the Haredi society in all areas of life, and to help them build a long-term strategy for the Haredi sector, based on research and data. I have no doubt that we will be leading much activity in the Haredi sector in the coming years."



**Adi Sisso-Juran**

## Adi Sisso-Juran appointed VP of the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs

**Yakov Izak will head the Institute's Strategy and PR Department**



**Yakov Izak**

**T**he Haredi Institute for Public Affairs has hired several positions: Adi Sisso-Juran will serve as VP, and Yakov Izak was appointed to head the Strategy and PR Department. The two will promote and implement data- and research-based policy regarding the Haredi society in Israel.

Before joining the Institute, Sisso-Juran was Director of the Dean of Students' Office at the Azrieli College of Engineering. Prior to that she was Director of the Leadership Department in the Social Engagement Unit of the Hebrew University. She has a BA in Islamic studies and the Middle East. "I view this position as a great opportunity to take part in the real change that the Institute is making. It is exciting to be part

of a team that works towards a better and more just society in Israel," says Sisso-Juran.

Izak, a Karliner Chassid, has been involved in strategic and mass media for the past two decades, with a focus on the Haredi sector in Israel. After graduating from kollel and from communications studies, he worked in leading advertising agencies in the Haredi market where he led innovative campaigns and focused on connecting the larger companies in the Israeli market to the Haredi consumers. For 13 years, Izak worked with MK Yaakov Litzman, head of the United Torah Judaism party, as his media advisor and spokesman. At the same time, he successfully led election campaigns for local authorities and advised mayors with regard to

the Haredi sector.

"I see the Haredi Institute as the proper model for achieving the goal of providing the right stage and a professional tool for the benefit of the Haredi community," says Izak. "The decisionmakers in Israel to not have enough professional means to deal with the development challenges of the Haredi community. Together, we can shed light on the welcome work of the Institute in the media. We aim to influence the public discourse, increase the Institutes circles of influence and promote its important goals. My commitment is to accompany the research team and formulate strategic-professional solutions that are fitting with the Haredi lifestyle."

Photo: shutterstock



## A standard of data and information that no other research body in Israel has

**The lack of consolidated, authoritative and structured data about the Haredim has a negative influence on planning and policymaking. To address this, the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs, together with Wohl Legacy, created the first-of-its-kind database, which will help advance the socio-economic status of the Haredim in Israeli society**

**T**oday, 25% of first-grade children are Haredi. By 2065, the Haredi population will constitute 48% of the non-adult population in Israel and 32% of the general population. Despite these striking numbers, only partial data and analyses about the Haredi sector exists. Furthermore, both the professional literature and the governmental authorities have a hard time defining who is Haredi, which, naturally, skews the data and lessens their relevance.

In order to address this lacuna, the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs, together with Wohl Legacy, created the Wohl Data Centre, which focuses on the Haredi population in Israel. The Centre will serve as a resource for precise, high-resolution digital data about the Haredi sector. The Centre, which is the first of its kind, will equip decisionmakers with a range of concentrated and reliable data. The data will be digitally accessible and updated, with the goal of helping improve the socio-economic status of the Haredim and promote their economic integration in Israeli society.

### Who is Haredi?

The aims and focus areas of the data centre include the definition of Haredim and creating an algorithm to accurately identify them, the various streams within the Haredi sector, data analysis and trends related to the Haredi population in Israel, and establishing forecast and prediction methods.

Leading the project is Dr. Eitan Regev, VP Data and Research, and the team includes a business intelligence (BI) expert, research assistants and a Haredi expert in the field, who plays a central role in evaluating and interpreting the data.



Dr. Eitan Regev

"The national data and information centre for the Haredi Society, the Wohl Data Centre, will serve as the official, most reliable source of information for decisionmakers in Israel to rely on, at the governmental and municipal levels and in foundations and NGOs," explained Dr. Regev. "For the first time, one can get a accurate picture about the Haredi society in each relevant field, going down to the resolution of neighborhoods and religious streams, and including comparisons to other groups. Therefore, the Centre will be critical to long-term policy planning for the haredi society in key areas such as housing, employment, health, education, transportation and emergency."

### Challenges and opportunities of Haredi business owners

A new study conducted by the Haredi Institute presents the situation of business owners from within the Haredi society. The study is based on administrative data and surveys conducted on behalf of the Institute.

The study found that about 11% of the Haredi population are business owners, the same rate as among non-Haredi Jews. However, Haredi business owners earn less than the non-Haredim: NIS 7,266 compared to NIS 11,180. This gap between the income of Haredim and non-Haredim is higher among men than among women.

Business owners who have a university degree make more than those without. However, despite the many governmental assistance programs for businesses, about 60% of the Haredi business owners have not received any assistance.

The Institute's main recommendations are to increase awareness among Haredi business owners regarding the importance of acquiring business management skills, encouraging them to appeal to a broader customer base, and expanding and adapting the current assistance systems and making them more accessible, in particular with regard to minimizing the knowledge gaps and to long-term support.

### Strategic program for Haredi employment in Jerusalem

Some 10,000 unemployed Haredi men who live in Jerusalem (a fifth of the city's Haredim) reported that they would like to join the work force, according to a study conducted by the Institute. As a result of the study, a strategic program for Haredi employment was created for the Jerusalem Development Authority, the Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage, and the Socio-Economic Development Authority for the Ultra-Orthodox Sector.

The study included in-depth interviews and surveys, and focused on three axes: the population axis, which characterized the needs of Haredi men and women in the job market and the obstacles they face; the employer axis, which looked at the demands and requirements of the businesses; and the system axis, which checked the main lacunae in the organizations involved in promoting employment in the city.

The study also showed that for Haredi women, it is important that their first job is related to their field of training. Significant wage gaps were seen between women whose first job was in their field of study (with average salaries of NIS 8,798) and those whose first job was unrelated to their studies (with average salaries of NIS 7,903).

Furthermore, about 60% of the working Haredi women who live in Jerusalem (25,000 women) are interested in additional professional training or academic studies, in order to advance their careers. This could help decrease the wage gap between Haredi women and non-Haredi women.

## A new study in the Institute: About a quarter of boys in the Haredi sector study in pedagogically flexible frameworks

**In** 2022, the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs conducted a special study, led by senior researcher Roni Barboi and research assistant Elazar Korenfeld, aiming to develop a new outlook on the phenomenon of boys at yeshiva-ktana age (14-17) dropping out of the educational system. One of the most important findings from the analysis of the data gathered touched on the high percentage (25%) of these boys who transfer from the regular Haredi frameworks to those with pedagogical flexibility. The study mapped the Haredi schools for that age group, and characterized the schools for the dropout youth of the traditional institutions. The research shows that about a quarter of the boys at yeshiva ktana age (14-17) go to schools with pedagogical flexibility, that are separate from the regular yeshivot kتانot, the traditional schools for the main population.

### The extent of the phenomenon

According to the findings, as of 2020, 6,569 students were accepted into schools with pedagogical flexibility – about 24% of the students that year. Mapping the phenomenon of dropout youth and the pedagogical flexible schools designated for them allowed for the first time to understand the phenomenon and to begin finding solutions for this youth. One of the main outcomes of the study was the emphasis put on the importance of teaching soft, life and vocational skills in these schools. These skills help the youth with personal development, coping with adolescence and future employment, in a way that is not dependent on learning a specific profession. Although the educational

Yeshivot Kتانot, ages 14-18	Yeshivas	Students	Percentage of yeshivas	Percentage of students
Regular schools	308	30,199	76%	78%
Schools for struggling youth	72	5,959	18%	16%
Vocational high school	7	833	2%	2%
Yeshiva high school with Bagrut	18	1,386	4%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>38,424</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
17-18-year-olds in joint yeshivot kتانot-gdolat	Yeshivas	Students	Percentage of yeshivas	Percentage of students
Joint yeshiva ktana and gdola for dropout youth	12	2,270	20%	19%
Normative yeshiva ktana and gdola	49	9,923	80%	81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>12,193</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

staff recognized the importance of these skills, the traditional schools did not have relevant programs.

According to the study, 40% of the youth were interested in PE, and 20% wanted help in emotional regulation and ways to cope with frustration. Regarding professional training, 31% of the respondents wanted to take the Bagrut (Israel's matriculation exams), 37% wanted vocational training, and 32% wanted to learn skills that would help them find a job. Regarding interpersonal skills, about 16% of the students wanted more skills for their social relationships, and 13% wanted skills to create new friendships. Approximately 9% wished there was an adult in their life whom they felt comfortable talking to, and 10% wanted help with their familial

relationships. About 40% said that they suffer from ADD.

### Investing in training

It became clear from the questionnaires and the interviews with the staff that there is a need to develop life skills and soft skills, and to invest in training for the educational staffs, collaboration with professionals, introducing cultural adjustments for the yeshivot kتانot, creating a work plan, building a budget, and supervising the schools that want to teach life skills and soft skills.

At the same time, many of the students also want assistance in acquiring hard skills that will help them join the job market. The findings of the study point to the need for further research.

## What are the changes in the demand for university studies among young Haredi men and women?

**In** the past few years there has been a significant increase in the number of young Haredim who go to university with the goal of joining the work force and advancing their careers. As part of the Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage and the Jerusalem Development Authority's plan for advancing Haredim in the city, in the past few months the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs conducted a study on university education for Haredim in Jerusalem.

The research was led by senior researcher and head of the employment field in the Institute, Yehudit Miletzky. Its goal was to depict the academic situation of Haredim in Jerusalem and to identify the demand for university degrees, as well as the obstacles, and to propose courses of action to adapt university education in Jerusalem and make it

accessible, to accommodate the Haredim.

In Jerusalem, 6,000 Haredi students are studying towards their undergraduate degrees, about one third of all Haredi students in Israel. Haredi students today are starting their academic studies at a younger age, sometimes even before they marry. In the past, Haredi men would start their university studies at the age of 28-30; today, they start at 22-24. Women used to begin at 22-24 and today, at 18-20.

In addition, the coronavirus pandemic led to academic studies becoming more accessible and to a rise in the recognition of their importance. The fields of study most in demand among Haredi women are the therapeutic fields, medicine, management, and social sciences. Haredi men are studying primarily social sciences, computer sciences,

and engineering.

According to the study, close to 6,500 young Haredim who are Jerusalem residents under the age of 35 want a university degree but are not enrolling due to technical and religious obstacles, including trouble funding the studies and the need for a suitable cultural framework.

Given this, it is proposed to establish an information center for young Haredim and their parents with comprehensive information regarding the academic institutions and professional tracks, the type of cultural and spiritual frameworks of the institutions, placement and salary information, scholarships and possible funding and work options. In addition, there appears to be a need for a designated school for Haredim for the para-medical professions.

## The findings of a new study call for a reform in Haredi seminaries for girls

**A study conducted by the Institute found a direct correlation between the quality of the Haredi women and the quality of their training • The researchers recommend launching a national program for professional training in the seminaries and establish a supervisory body**

About 60% of working Haredim are women, and their employment rate is similar to that of non-Haredi Jewish women. However, in terms of the quality of their employment, there are significant differences between the Haredi and non-Haredi women. A Haredi woman earns 30% less than her non-Haredi counterpart. A new study conducted by Yehudit Miletzky and Yifat Mansbach-Shapira from the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs found that the quality of employment is closely related to the quality of the training the Haredi women receive.

The initial and most significant training to prepare the Haredi women for the labor market is provided to the vast majority of these women in Haredi seminaries for girls. Some 150,000 Haredi women are working today, and every year, another 10,000 women join them, of which, 90% join the job market fresh out of the Haredi seminaries. These seminaries are not only the largest training body in Israel, but also the main platform for training graduates of the Haredi educational system for the labor market.

Although these seminaries were established as teacher training centers, about half of the seminary students today learn other professions. These include engineering tracks, vocational

training offered by the Labor Branch at the Ministry of Economy and Industry, and others. Of 8,500 girls, close to 4,000 study in vocational training tracks, either with or without teaching training at the same time.

### Oversight and budgeting

The research found that the training courses in the Haredi seminaries for girls are currently not under proper pedagogical supervision, and its important role in preparing Haredi women for the labor market is not expressed in the budgeting.

The information gathered in the study suggests that there is a need for a national program to reform the vocational training curricula in the seminaries, as well as the establishment of a supervisory body to oversee the training. This supervisory body will include representatives from all the big seminaries. It will be responsible for supervising the pedagogical content in the vocational training tracks, periodically examining the possibility of adding new training programs and building their curricula, certifying the tracks under its supervision, monitoring the demand in the labor market, and offering financial incentives in accordance with pre-determined criteria.

In addition, the study proposes establishing regional employment development units - placement centers for the graduates of the seminaries. These centers will be responsible for connecting with employers and offering practical experience, professional advancement programs and teaching the necessary skills needed to join the work force. These units will have offices in every large seminary, and will provide workshops, organize meetings with employers, run a database of available jobs and provide personal support to each of the girls when they join the labor market.



source: Ministry of Education data, national Seminar mapping 2022

## The full picture: these are the voting patterns of the Haredi population in the parliamentary elections over the past decade

**The Institute's data team created a unique method to analyze the voting patterns**

Throughout the entire campaign period, political commentators tried to assess the impact of the Haredi vote. It was obvious to everyone that the Haredi sector would play an important part in the elections, yet most experts were left mainly with questions and without much information or data.

Over the same period, the data team at the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs gathered and analyzed data on the voting patterns of the Haredi society over the past decade and reached new insights. Despite fluctuations and crises that affected the Haredi society, such as the coronavirus pandemic, the Meron

tragedy and others, the Haredim remain true to their previous voting patterns. As a result, it is clear that the Haredi parties have not grown significantly in terms of mandates, but they have also not lost power. While there were changes in the votes to the specific parties, the Haredim generally vote within the Haredi bloc.

The analysis also showed fewer votes for the Religious Zionist Party (HaTzionut HaDatit) in Haredi towns such as Beitar Illit, Modi'in Illit and El'ad, reversing the previous trend. The voting data revealed that only 5.5% of the Haredi population voted for the Religious Zionist Party, while in previous elections, 6.2% of the Haredim voted for the religious Zionist

parties. On the other hand, the data also showed that more traditional United Torah Judaism (UTJ) voters voted for Shas (a 1% increase).

A total of 600,000 Haredim have the right to vote (Shas and UTJ voters), of which 400,000 are defined as potential UTJ voters. A data analysis showed that in fact, UTJ got 280,000 votes, which is 47% of the national Haredi vote and 70% of those considered potential UTJ voters. If we take out of the equation those who didn't vote - those who have the right to vote but do not do so for ideological reasons such as the Jerusalem Faction (5%) or the Edah Haredit (7%) - about 80% of those with voting rights voted for UTJ.

### Real estate: national emergency plan to deal with the housing crisis in the Haredi sector

Following the serious housing crisis, and towards the formation of the new government, the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs held an emergency meeting with Haredi representatives, in an attempt to formulate a national program to solve the housing crisis in the Haredi sector. The shortage of hundreds of thousands of housing units and the rising prices brought dozens of activists from various communities to the table to discuss the crisis in-depth and professionally. The discussion was initiated and led by Bentzi Rakov, a city planner and senior researcher at the Haredi Institute, and Dr. Shai Stern, the housing expert at the Institute, a senior lecturer and expert on the legal aspects of planning and construction. The discussion focused on the crisis as a whole, and the needs of the Haredi society in particular. Rakov emphasized that the Haredi public feels the crisis more than anyone else. He mentioned that the Institute was leading the public and government's engagement in the field of housing for the Haredim, and in 2016, initiated the strategic plan for Haredi housing 2016-2035, which was included in a government resolution in 2017. Furthermore, he mentioned the Institute's mobilization to overturn the decision of the regional planning and construction committee regarding west Kiryat Gat.

### Municipal: management challenges in a mixed town

The Haredi Institute for Public Affairs went on a special tour of the Ashdod municipality, hosted by Mayor Yehiel Lasri, his deputy, the municipality's director general, and heads of divisions and departments. An in-depth discussion was held on the challenges of a mixed town, especially with regard to infrastructure, employment, welfare, housing and education. The senior leadership of the Institute presented its work vis-à-vis the local authorities and ways to create possible collaborations between the Institute's staff and the Ashdod municipality and its various departments. To that end, the Institute proposed that the municipality obtain in-depth data about the Haredi sector, to help them practically and

professionally in designing a designated work plan for the Haredi sector in the town. Chairman of the Institute Eli Paley stressed: "Ashdod is an example of a town with Haredi, Orthodox, secular and new olim living together. This welcome model in Ashdod should be emulated."

### Academia: needs and challenges

A round table was held in October at the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs with the participation of actors engaged in the efforts to promote education and quality employment for the Haredi population. At the meeting, key findings from a study about academia in Jerusalem that was conducted by the Institute, and a discussion was held about the needs of young Haredi men and women who choose university studies, the potential demand, how to address the challenges, and central courses of action.



Real estate emergency meeting

### Strengthening cooperation between the Haredi society and the Israel Police

Last month, an introductory meeting took place between Deputy Commissioner David Bitan and the team responsible for the Haredi society in the Israel Police, and the staff of the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs. At the meeting, possible collaborations were examined,



The institute's leaders visiting Ashdod

including the possibility of sharing population data on the Haredi society, the Israel Police's cultural competence regarding the Haredi society, recruiting Haredi police officers and Haredi women investigators, increasing the Haredi society's faith in the Israel Police, and making police services accessible.

### The Rothstein Fund: The Fund's board and management visit the offices of the Institute

Members of the board and Management of the Rothstein Fund visited the offices of the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs. During the visit, the Institute's staff presented the organization's work, and especially the database and the innovative algorithm that was developed at the Data Centre. In addition, they presented a study that was conducted by the Institute together with the Aaron Institute for Economic Policy, on Haredi men in the technological fields.

### Health: promoting a healthy lifestyle

The Haredi Institute and a forum of professionals from the field of Haredi health, headed by Dr. Tehila Kalaji from Ben-Gurion University, launched a cooperation to advance a number of studies and projects that will deal with three issues: reducing health risks by promoting a healthy lifestyle, mental health, and advancing a policy that is culturally suited to the Haredi society.

## The housing crisis in the Haredi society: 80% of the population is interested in urban renewal

Following a survey conducted by the Institute, a comprehensive study has been launched for the Government Authority for Urban Renewal

Until now, there has been a widespread view that there is low demand for urban renewal projects in the Haredi neighborhoods. However, a survey conducted by the Haredi Institute for Public Affairs and Direct Polls in recent months found that the reality is different. The poll surveyed 1,037 residents of Haredi neighborhoods aged 18 and up, in neighborhoods that are relevant for urban renewal. These neighborhoods are located in Ashdod, Bnei Brak, Jerusalem,

Ofakim, Bat Yam, Haifa, Karmiel, Netivot, Afula, Petach Tikva, Kiryat Malachi and Rechasim.

The survey found that there is high demand among the public for urban renewal (80%) in Haredi neighborhoods. Most of those polled (60%) expressed interest in raze and rebuild projects (NOP 38/2), while 38% prefer retrofit and renovate projects (NOP38/1).

There are unique obstacles in the Haredi communities on the way to urban renewal. In

addition to the difficulties related to building high rises because of Sabbath elevator and the need for balconies that are suitable for a sukkah, it is important to address the religious character of the neighborhood, issues pertaining to neighbor law, and what the halacha says about forcing urban renewal projects on reluctant tenants. The results of the survey are promising and prove that with the right planning, urban renewal can help alleviate the housing crisis in the Haredi sector.