

# **Helpline for the Israeli Migrant Community in Berlin**

By: Nitzan Meilin

## Abstract

The helpline project for the Israeli community in Berlin is an example of migrant self-organization that helped the migrant community become a political actor in the host society. This paper examined the first steps of conducting the project in particular with regard to identifying the needs of the community, the possible ways to attend to those needs in the host country, and how those needs have ignited the process of self-organization. This is a qualitative action research, based on the project documents, an interview with the initiator of the project, and my own experiences as the project manager. The research shows that the organization process grew naturally, out of the needs of the community, was promoted by a team of volunteers from within the community, and contained a learning process both from organizations in Israel and in Germany.