

**From:** [Ami Thakkar](#)  
**To:** [Argentina - Rolando Kandel](#); [Belgium - Christine Castille](#); [Brazil - Maria Do Carmo Krehan](#); [Canada - Debbie Gray](#); [Canada - Mike Prentice](#); [Chile - Victor Caro](#); [Colombia - Liliana Gonzalez](#); [Czech - Anna Onucová](#); [Finland - Helina Perttu](#); [Hungary - Hámori Zoltán](#); [Italy - Alberto Cappio](#); [Mexico - Luz Elena](#); [Netherlands - Maaïke Roelofs](#); [Netherlands - Malou Durve](#); [Nigeria - Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli](#); [Nigeria - Ngozi Obigwe](#); [Peru - Jordi Huguet](#); [Peru - Julio Moscoso](#); [Poland - Bartosz Sułek](#); [Russia - Valeria Avacheva](#); [Russia - Victoria Davrukova](#); [Thailand - Srisak Thaiarry](#); [Turkey - Fatma Aksu](#); [Turkey - Ozgur Unluhisarcikli](#); [Turkey - Suat Ozcagdas](#); [UK - Sophie Wood](#); [US - Catherine Hopkins \(chopkins@bigthought.org\)](#); [US - Taylor Bunn \(tbunn@bigthought.org\)](#); [Venezuela - Ana Vila Brito](#); [Venezuela - Gina Biasini](#);  
**CC:** [Alan Williams](#); [Kim Ascoli](#); [Karin Akins](#); [Michelle Szechenyi](#); [Susan Pezzullo](#); [Sheila Kinkade](#); [Karen Phillips](#);  
**Subject:** Make a Connection Monthly Update (May 2007)  
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Dear Partners,

Below you'll find the monthly email update for **May**. We're taking a break from the monthly updates during the June-August summer period, but we'll continue to be in dialogue and will convey any important global announcements by email.

Warm regards,  
Make a Connection Team

## Make a Connection Monthly Update May 2007

### In this month's issue:

- **August Interim Report**
- **Learning and Evaluation Plan Challenge Grants**
- **Technical Assistance for Data Collection and Analysis**
- **Recent Event: World Bank Conference on "Young People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: From Policy to Action"**
- **Local Events Calendar**
- **Partner Profiles: Hungary and UK**

### August Interim Reports

The report deadline for your next interim report is **1 August 2007**. Contact your regional manager with any questions. Check out the interim report questions [here](#) for your reference.

### Make a Connection Learning and Evaluation Plan Challenge Grants

This is a reminder that limited Learning and Evaluation Plan Challenge Grants are now available through IYF. Partners who have an interest in conducting more in-depth studies and/or utilizing more innovative, rigorous measurement techniques that their program budget would otherwise not allow (i.e. utilizing mastery skill testing, control groups, comparison groups, etc.) are encouraged to apply for these supplemental funds. More information on the grants can be found [here](#). If you have any questions please email Susan Pezzullo ([spezullo@iyfnet.org](mailto:spezullo@iyfnet.org)). **The deadline for applying for these funds is June 30, 2007.**

### Technical Assistance Available for Data Collection and Analysis

IYF has retained an evaluation expert, Tom Leavitt (who you will remember from the Brandeis study), to provide partners with technical assistance on the design or implementation of Learning and Evaluation plans. If you would like to request support from Mr. Leavitt in designing or using data collection tools, selecting samples, setting up a data base or conducting data analysis, please email Susan Pezzullo ([spezullo@iyfnet.org](mailto:spezullo@iyfnet.org)). You should explain briefly how and when you would like Tom to help your program.

## Resources: Just Released - Two New Field Notes

Thanks very much to those who devoted their time and insights to these two new Field Notes publications. Check them out [here](#).

### *Reaching Out to Youth in High Risk Environments*

Life skills programs can profoundly impact a young person's ability to overcome risk factors in their environment. Summarized here are the experiences of three Network partners — Mexico, Peru, and the UK — in addressing the needs of vulnerable youth.

### *Recruiting and Screening Program Participants*

What steps can life skills programs take to effectively promote their programs to those young people they seek to reach? How can programs screen participants without spending inordinate time and resources? Read about the experiences of Network partners in Nigeria, Poland, and Venezuela.

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## Recent Event: World Bank Conference on Young People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: From Policy to Action

In May, the World Bank hosted the first ECA-wide conference on investing in youth. The conference, which was held in Rome, was in follow-up to the WDR youth report and focused on two of the key transitions related to employment and citizenship. Representatives from 29 ECA countries participated, including IYF partners TEGV and NROS who presented at the event. In tandem with the event, Nokia sponsored youth innovation grants for innovative projects led by young people in the areas of employment and citizenship. If you would like to receive information on the outcomes of event, please contact Ami Thakkar.

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## Local Events Calendar

To help us all keep abreast of country program activities taking place throughout the year, we've developed a network-wide Events Calendar. Visit the Events Calendar [here](#) to learn more about program launches, graduation ceremonies, trainings, and celebrations. The calendar identifies potential events to cover for communications purposes, so please send us updates as they become available.

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## Partner Profiles

### *Hungary National Youth Service Day*

DIA hosted its second annual National Youth Service Day event in Hungary this past April. Nearly 10,000 people completed volunteer and service projects in 150 locations across the country. For the first time, a central volunteer event was organized in Budapest City Park where 300 volunteers came out to clean the park and garden. Student groups, teachers, families and other volunteers took part in contributing to their community and taking action on an important social issue. The national event was a huge success and a powerful demonstration of the potential of young people to positively contribute in Hungary.



### *UK Peace Flags*

Read more [here](#) about a Life Routes team in Halifax, UK learning about peace and creating one of the world's longest peace flags.

