

## Program Profile: "Foundation for Democratic Youth"

By Lily Axelrod, ICP Intern

As Hungary comes into its own as a democracy, the country's civil society is slowly recovering from the effects of Communist rule, which ended in 1989. However, youth participation in this process lags behind, as memories of the co-optation of youth volunteer organizations under Communism remain strong in the national consciousness and negative attitudes toward civic engagement are the norm among young people and their parents. In order to combat these perceptions and more fully prepare Hungary's youth to become active democratic citizens, the Foundation for Democratic Youth (DIA, Demokratikus Ifjúságért Alapítványt) was founded in 1999 in cooperation with Youth Service International.



Courtesy of <http://www.i-dia.org>

The DIA model takes an interdisciplinary approach to teaching democratic values, blending volunteering, community activities and service-learning to engage young people directly in improving their own communities. The organization focuses on engaging volunteers in rural areas, who have even less access to civil society organizations than their urban peers. DIA aims to support existing local youth volunteer groups, aiding them in their efforts by providing grants, offering trainings, holding conferences, and organizing national and local youth volunteer days. DIA also trains teachers to implement service-learning strategies in their classrooms, and advises professionals on management of effective youth service programs.

Additionally, DIA runs several international programs which invite volunteers from other countries to learn about Hungarian civil society and participate in local volunteer projects. Finally, as a member of the International Council of National Youth Policies, the organization hopes to influence public policy, lobbying the Hungarian government to adopt stronger youth service laws and programs.

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## Zimbabwe's National Youth Service Program

By Rose McGovern, ICP Program Assistant

The positive attributes of National Youth Service Policies (NYSPs) are lauded by practitioners and policy makers across the globe. Yet the very nature of NYSPs as government mandated programs opens them to misuse and exploitation by governing bodies. Some observers believe that Zimbabwe's National Youth Service Program (NYSPZ) exemplifies the potential dangers of NYSPs left unchecked.

The Zimbabwean National Youth Service Program (NYSPZ) was initiated in July 2001 and focuses on instilling youth with the following five values: 1) National Identity 2) Patriotism 3) Unity and Oneness 4) Discipline and 5) Self Reliance. Participants spend three months in training camps, after which they are required to complete a one month service project in their communities. Zimbabwe's Youth Minister, Saviour Kasukuwere, recently announced the government's plans to expand the National Youth Service Program to provide all Zimbabwean youths the opportunity to participate in the program. This announcement brought criticism of Zimbabwe's National Youth Service Program (NYSPZ) to the forefront of media attention across the continent.

Each of Zimbabwe's eight regions supports a NYSPZ training camp, with the capacity to house 1,000 volunteers for each training cycle. The training camps are designed to imitate military

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## VOSESA Staff Member Explores Identity and National Youth Service Policies

VOSESA is a South African non-profit that was founded in 2001 as part of the Global Service Institute of which ICP is also a member. VOSESA's Project Coordinator, Rejoice Shumba, recently completed her dissertation at the University of Johannesburg on Zimbabwe's National Youth Service Program (NYSPZ). The dissertation, *Social Identities in the National Youth Service of Zimbabwe*, explores how the NYSPZ forms identities amongst participants. To contact Rejoice regarding her dissertation, use the following e-mail address: [rejoice.shumba@vosesa.org.za](mailto:rejoice.shumba@vosesa.org.za).

To learn more about VOSESA, please visit their website at <http://vosesa.org.za>.

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

(IANYS)

By Sejal Jhaveri, ICP Intern

### News and Updates

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Seminar on Service-Learning will be held on August 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The conference is being organized by Nieves Tapia, a member of the IANYS Global Council and Executive Director of the Latin American Center of Service-Learning (CLAYSS). The conference is a venue in which interested teachers, principals, higher education professors and administrators, researchers, and NGO leaders from Latin America, the US and Europe can discuss and share ideas about service-learning. The conference will provide service-learning training, promote the exchange of ideas and experiences between schools and universities that are developing service-learning projects, and help strengthen the networks between civil society and the educational system. The conference will be preceded by a Talloires Network meeting on August 29, during which members of both networks will discuss IANYS' role in facilitating and contributing to higher education initiatives. For more information on these meetings, please contact Nieves Tapia at [clayss@fibertel.com.ar](mailto:clayss@fibertel.com.ar) or Emma Lochery at [lochery@icicp.org](mailto:lochery@icicp.org).

On June 15, 2007, the Italian government sponsored a day-long civic service conference at Padua University. The conference, Civic Service in Europe: Citizens of Peace, brought representatives from 6 European countries together to discuss the role of civic service in building European citizenship and increasing volunteerism among European Youth. Each country sent representatives from the Civic Service National Agency (or the local equivalent), a representative from a leading national NGO, and a volunteer currently participating in a service project. As a result of the conference, the European Commission agreed to renew efforts to create a European Civic Service, initiating what promises to be the start of increased dialogue about volunteer service in Europe. To read the conclusions and summary of the day's events, please follow the link <http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=Civic+Service+in+Europe+Citizens+of+Peace.pdf>. Chair of the IANYS Global Council, Elisabeth Hoodless, participated in the event at the request of Licio Palazzini, a member of the Global Council.

### Hungary

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The following represent a few of DIA's most innovative current programs:

**Self-Starter Fund:** Under the Self-Starter Fund, DIA awards small grants to local youth-run volunteer organizations. These grants build capacity of local programs run by and for youth, which often have difficulty securing funding. The process also allows the young program coordinators to practice writing grants, an important professional skill in both the business and non-profit sectors. Previous grant recipients have conducted activities such as restoring playgrounds, collecting clothing for needy families, and making films for local and national TV programs. This project is part of the NOKIA-sponsored Make A Connection Program, run through the International Youth Foundation.

**Life Skills for Employability:** Launched in January 2006 in cooperation with the General Electric Foundation, Life Skills for Employability is an innovative curricular program which aims to prepare youth for the demands of the modern workplace and ease their transition from school to employment. Focusing on young people from the ages of 13 to 18, the program trains teachers to implement service-learning techniques, making their students more engaged learners and active community members.

To continue reading about DIA, please follow the link


<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=DIA.pdf>

To visit DIA's website, please follow the link [http://www.i-dia.org/index\\_eng.php](http://www.i-dia.org/index_eng.php).

### IANYS News and Updates Submissions

In this new section of ICP's newsletter, we will provide up-to-date information on IANYS member activities as well as more general news about the Association. Please submit content for this section to Rose McGovern at [rmcgovern@icicp.org](mailto:rmcgovern@icicp.org).

### Country Profile: Hungary

 For further background information regarding civil society and other youth service programs in Hungary and a brief description of DIA and OTLET, another program DIA now administers, please follow the link to ICP's Country Profile on Hungary:

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=3&gr=Y&path=&file=Hungary+country+profile.pdf>

## Zimbabwe

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training camps, as reflected by participants' scheduled activities which include marching drills, morning runs and chores. The militaristic nature of the camps has led many Zimbabweans to conclude that the NYSPZ is simply a ruse for a youth militia program operated by the ruling party, the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), which has dominated both the legislative and executive branches of government since 1980. Reports detailing trainees' actions after 'graduating' from the program have strongly reinforced this belief. Former participants, Zimbabwean citizens and outside observers have reported that ZANU-PF's enemies were tortured and murdered by camp leaders and participants, and that some former participants harass opposition party members and enforce laws on ZANU-PF's behalf. Unsurprisingly, then, most of NYSPZ's opponents belong to the opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

MDC members argue that the NYSPZ is a party program, not a national one. An integral component of the NYSPZ, the National Orientation (NO) sessions, strengthens this argument. NO sessions are essentially lectures on Zimbabwe's political and cultural history.

To continue reading the article, please follow the link

<http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=fileman&idx=get&inl=1&id=17&gr=Y&path=&file=NYSPZ.pdf>.

## Resources

### Make it Your Own Awards

On June 26, 2007, the Youth Policy Action Center in partnership with the Case Foundation launched the Make it Your Own Awards, an initiative that offers grants to individuals working to bring people together to discuss and take action on community issues. Twenty semi-finalists will receive \$10,000 grants, out of which four finalists will be selected by the public via online voting to receive an additional \$20,000 grant. The application deadline is August 8<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about this opportunity, visit

<http://www.casefoundation.org/make-it-your-own>.

### English Version of Latin American and Caribbean Youth Portal Launched

On June 5, 2007, Celaju and the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean jointly launched the English version of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Portal. The youth portal is a network for youth groups, networks and organizations as well as the general public to connect, share ideas and post resources concerning youth issues. The original portal, launched on August 12, 2005, was only available in Spanish and focused primarily on Latin American countries. However, due to interest and demand, Celaju and UNESCO are reaching out to countries both in the Caribbean and the rest of the world. To visit the site, please follow the link

<http://www.youthlac.org/content/category/13/85/143/>.

### Walt Disney Mini-Grants Available

The Walt Disney Company and Youth Service America have announced the mini-grants competition for youth-led service projects. Grants of up to \$500 will be awarded to youth between the ages of 5 and 14 who are developing service projects to implement in their communities between October 1 and November 26, 2007. Applicants from the international community are welcome and strongly encouraged to apply. The application deadline is August 30<sup>th</sup>. To learn more, visit

[www.YSA.org/awards](http://www.YSA.org/awards).

### UNPF Report Addresses Urbanization's Affect on Youth with Second Edition of Youth Supplement

The second edition of the Youth Supplement to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNPF) *State of World Population Report* was released on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The 2007 report focuses on urbanization, reporting that in 2008, for the first time in history, more than half the world's population will live in urban areas. The youth supplement addresses the challenges and issues young people face from this increase in urbanization and includes essays from youth from seven different countries. To access both the UNPF report and youth supplement, please follow the link <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm>.

## Upcoming Events

**National Conference on Volunteering and Service:** July 16-18, 2007; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For more information, please visit

<http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/>.

**Community Works Institute on Service-Learning:**

July 24-28, 2007; Shelburne Farms, Vermont. For more information, please visit

<http://www.vermontcommunityworks.org/>.

**Fourth Annual Urban Service-Learning Institute:**

August 2-3, 2007; Detroit, Michigan. For more information, please visit

[http://www.nylc.org/happening\\_event.cfm?oid=3D5584](http://www.nylc.org/happening_event.cfm?oid=3D5584).

**TUNZA International Youth Conference:**

August 26-30, 2007; Liverkusen, Germany. For more information please visit

<http://www.unep.org/tunza/youthconference/About/index.asp>.

**The National Learn and Serve Challenge: Be a Solution:**

Sept. 17-23, 2007. For more information please visit

<http://www.service-learningpartner-ship.org/lchallenge>.

**Global Forum on Youth and ICT for Development: Youth and ICT as Agents of Change:**

September 24-26, 2007; Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, please visit

<http://www.un-gaid.org/>.

**League of Arab States Youth Forum:**

November 19-22, 2007; Ein Soukhna, Egypt. For more information please visit

<http://www.lasyouthforum.org/en/index.php>.

# Service News

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## ICP News and Happenings

ICP staff welcomed Trisha Apte, our newest summer intern, on July 2nd. Trisha graduated from Northwestern University in June 2007 with a BS in Communication Studies and a minor in Business Institutions. Over the past few summers she has interned at Lehman Brothers Investment Banking and Motorola Corporation. From these experiences, Trisha recognized a growing correlation between business practices in the private and public sector. She hopes to bridge her coursework and experi-

ence in business with her interest in international development and policy. Trisha grew up in Hong Kong and Thailand and will be relocating to Chicago in the fall.

ICP's Executive Director, Susan Stroud, co-facilitated a workshop on civic literacy with a global perspective in Brussels, Belgium on July 5-7th at the First International Conference on Service-Learning in Teacher Education. See next month's newsletter for a detailed report on the conference and workshop.

## Service News Headlines

### Argentina's Declining Volunteer Rate

Results from a recent TNS Gallup poll in Argentina demonstrate that volunteering rates have drastically decreased in Argentina. The report, "El voluntariado en la Argentina 2007," details the findings obtained from 1,003 polls conducted throughout Argentina, and reveals that since the 32% high in 2002, volunteering rates have decreased to 14% in 2007. The report concludes by analyzing the recent economic crisis in relation to this trend. To read the report, visit

[http://www.voluntariosf.org.ar/biblioteca/INF\\_TNS\\_GALLUP\\_VOLUNTARIADO%20en%20ARG.pdf](http://www.voluntariosf.org.ar/biblioteca/INF_TNS_GALLUP_VOLUNTARIADO%20en%20ARG.pdf).

### Summer of Service Receives Growing Support and Recognition

The Center for American Progress has published an article describing the attributes of the Summer of Service program, which envisions a summer of intensive service for middle schoolers transitioning to high school. This comes at a time of growing support on the Hill for the Summer of Service Act, spearheaded by Senator Dodd and Representative DeLauro, that would create a competitive grant program enabling students to participate in community service projects throughout the summer. To read the article, visit

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/06/summer\\_service.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/06/summer_service.html). To learn more about the Summer of Service program, visit <http://www.icicp.org/index.php?tg=articles&topics=385&new=0&newc=0>.

### G8 Heads of State Meet with Youth Representatives

From June 2-9, 2007 seventy-four young people from eighteen countries gathered at the Junior 8

(J8) summit in Germany to prepare the Wismar Declaration, a document outlining the youth's recommendation to leaders at the G8 Summit. Seven youth representatives from the J8 summit presented the group's recommendations to leaders at the G8 Summit on June 7<sup>th</sup>. To read the Wismar declaration, visit [www.j8summit.com](http://www.j8summit.com). To view a recording of the J8 representatives present at the G8 summit, visit <http://www.g8.de/Webs/G8/EN/Media/Videos/videos.html>.

### South Africa Combats Unemployment via Youth Service

The South African Government is recruiting 500 unemployed artisan graduates as part of its drive to increase employability amongst young South Africans (18-35). The program is part of South Africa's National Youth Service Program adopted in April 2007, and will engage participants in one year renovation projects throughout Mpumalanga province. Program staff hope to see 20% of program participants employed and/or running their own businesses shortly after graduation. To read the full article, visit

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200706130658.html>.

### Young Graduates in China Serve in Under-Developed Regions

China's Go West Program, sponsored by the Communist Youth League Party, is sending young graduates to work for one to two years in China's most under-served and ethnically strained regions in an effort to increase development in these regions. Over the past five years, more than 10,000 doctors, teachers, administrators, engineers and agronomists have volunteered through the party program. To read the full article, visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/14/AR2007061401892.html?referrer=email>.

*Service News World-wide is produced by Innovations in Civic Participation. This monthly newsletter is intended to be a resource for current news and events related to service, country information, relevant publications and internet resources, in addition to in-depth discussions of different types of service and the issues that accompany them.*

**Comments and/or suggestions are welcomed, and we strongly encourage contributions for future issues.**

**Please direct enquiries to [info@icicp.org](mailto:info@icicp.org)**

