

## Net@ Teaching Coexistence while Bridging the Technological Gap Nazareth Illit

Net@ is an exciting initiative that trains disadvantaged youth in Israel's periphery for high-tech positions, and helps close the gaps associated with the digital divide, while providing them with social empowerment and leadership skills.

Net@ has been successfully empowering underprivileged youth through the collaborated efforts of Keren Hayesod-UIA, Cisco Systems, Israel NGO Appleseeds and the Jewish Agency. This program helps Israeli high school students from disadvantaged areas become high-tech professionals and socially responsible citizens. Participants receive hands-on training to become certified computer network technicians and gain CCNA (Certified Computer Networking Associate) certification as advanced network technicians with international Cisco certificates. Net@ a three year program is structured in a way that enables the students to choose to study one year, two years or a whole three years. **At the end of each year student receive a certificate based on their studies.**

Net@ is currently operating across Israel, with over 1,000 students. Participants receive training in a technological profession, enhance their Math and English skills, develop a sense of volunteerism and community leadership, take part in a variety of social activities and learn how to work as part of a team.

### Bridging the ethnic divide

The project currently provides a special **co-existence program** for over Jews, Christians and Moslems in the cities of Nazareth, Acre, Ramle and Jerusalem. One of the ideological underpinnings of the Net@ program fostering coexistence, particularly among Jewish and Arab populations "The way the twig is bent, so grows the tree" says the old adage, and **Net@ believes that fostering a positive relationship between the different groups of youth will help ensure that they grow into more tolerant adults, committed to resolving problems amicably and dedicated to peaceful coexistence.**



**Making a Difference in Israel and the Jewish World Since 1920**

**SUPPORT ISRAEL: [WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL](http://WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL)**

## Net@ encourages and develops coexistence in mixed population localities

In the course of a three-year program of activities the Net@ program instils a sense of self-belief, strength and the ability. The students study intensively towards Cisco's certification as international network technicians, a sought after profession in the hi-tech world. The program gives youth from the periphery a chance to become part of the successful Israeli hi-tech industry, constructive citizens and leaders involved in the community.

At present there are 180 non-Jewish students in Net@, comprising Christian and Moslem Arabs In Neta@ project.

- **In Nazareth: there are total of 93 students, 50 of whom are Moslems and Christians.**

There is no doubt that the social curriculum which underscores the importance of coexistence, the numerous friendships formed between students of different religions and different ethnic groups, and the numerous activities conducted in order to bridge between religions - constitute a basis for the program's success.



## Main activities for reinforcing coexistence in cities with mixed population

1. Technology as a bridge spanning over differences: All studies in the mixed cities stress the importance of coexistence and are conducted in mixed classes in which the language is that of technology. An outsider coming to into the classroom would not notice the students' different ethnic origins. The language spoken in class is the language of technology which creates a basis for common dialogue, friendships and joint activities which go far beyond classroom activity.

**Making a Difference in Israel and the Jewish World Since 1920**

**SUPPORT ISRAEL: [WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL](http://WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL)**

2. Social activity for pluralism and getting to know the other: In addition to the technology classes, emphasis is placed on social activity which encourages pluralism and getting to know the other. **The program has a calendar on which Jewish, Moslem and Christian holidays are marked; each holiday is an opportunity to learn about the religion and traditions of participants.** Tasks are given to teams to foster acquaintance, open discussions are held and fun activities, including trips going out together away from the local community are performed.



## The importance of a strategic partner for Net@'s activities in mixed cities

Net@ is seeking a strategic partner that will support the program over time. It will accord stability to the program's constant activity and accord students a sense of stability. It will enable us to open additional classes in the mixed cities – an activity that will allow Israeli youth from different religions and ethnic groups to build a bridge of tolerance and understanding which will affect not only Net@'s students but also wider circles. We see the program's great success and the great demand for it; it is a program that opens numerous doors to the hi-tech industry for its students, enabling youth from different religions and mixed cities to fulfil their dream to integrate into the vibrant and sought after hi-tech industry – which would probably not have happened without the program.

**Making a Difference in Israel and the Jewish World Since 1920**

**SUPPORT ISRAEL: [WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL](http://WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL)**

# High Priority Project



Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal  
קרן היסוד-המגבית המאוחדת לישראל

However, **The importance of Net@ in the mixed cities is not only in the fact that it reinforces tolerance but also opens a door for the minority groups to the hi-tech world, making them an integral, productive and important part of Israeli society.** This step will affect individuals and their families and their close environment as well as Israeli society in its entirety. It will alleviate tension, fears and apprehension, and make these young people into a lever for creativity and the joint work of all Israel's social strata.

We would like to invite you to participate in creating a new future for the youth in mixed cities; to enable the continued operation of Net@ in Nazareth-Nazareth Illit, a symbol of coexistence between two peoples who live in continual apprehension based on suspicion and an unwillingness to learn to know the other.

Building common bridges could change reality. We have no doubt that expanding Net@ coexistence program as well as to other mixed cities will affect not only the program's students; it will develop tolerance, mutual understanding and motivate the city's residents learn to know the other. Thus the program will constitute a bridge between peoples and may have an impact on ever-expanding circles in Israeli society.



Net@ also opens doors to prestigious technological units in the IDF, higher education and high-tech professions, while helping raise students' self-esteem and confidence, and teach values of civic responsibility.

**Making a Difference in Israel and the Jewish World Since 1920**

**SUPPORT ISRAEL: [WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL](http://WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL)**

# High Priority Project



Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal  
קרן היסוד-המגבית המאוחדת לישראל

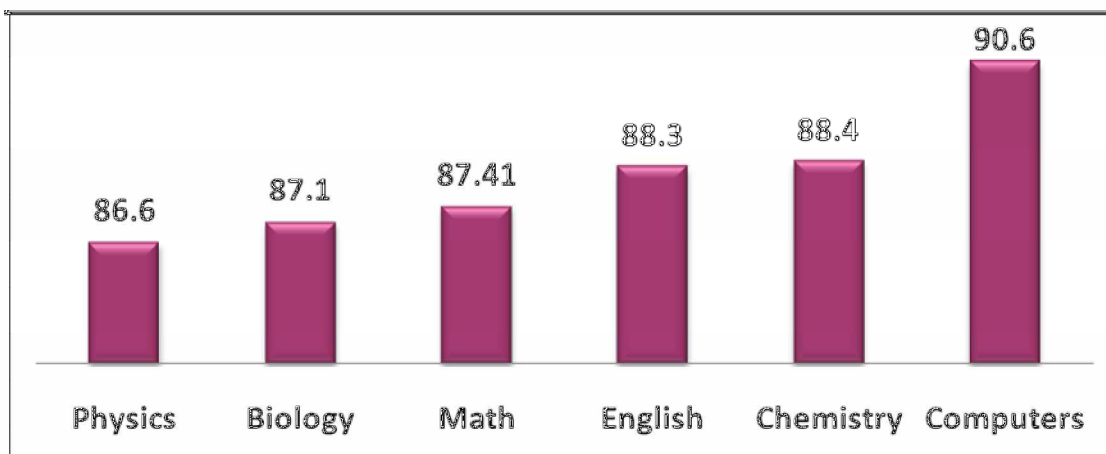
During the school year, students attend four-hour afternoon study sessions, twice a week. In their second and third year, participants perform 60 mandatory hours of voluntary service in the community. For example, they use their expertise to service computers in various public institutions and for private citizens who otherwise lack the means to have them repaired or upgraded. **Net@ has proven itself in recent years to be one of the most effective agents of social mobility in Israel.**



## Tovanot

Net@'s external evaluation company *Tovanot* recently returned impressive findings regarding Net@'s graduates!

- ü Net@ graduates volunteer 2.7 times more frequently than their Israeli peers
- ü More Female graduates expressed that the program impacted them
- ü More Arab graduates expressed that the program impacted them
- ü High school matriculation grades of Net@ graduates:



**Making a Difference in Israel and the Jewish World Since 1920**

**SUPPORT ISRAEL: [WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL](http://WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL)**

# High Priority Project



Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal  
קרן היסוד-המגבית המאוחדת לישראל

## Net@ is special because:

- It provides the participants with a high-earning, internationally recognized profession
- It provides the participants with skills and academic abilities that open doors for them for higher education
- It puts equal emphasis on empowering the students as individuals, as part of a team, and as leaders in their community.

**A generous gift of US \$ 5,000 will provide a scholarship for student for three years program.**

**Making a Difference in Israel and the Jewish World Since 1920**  
**SUPPORT ISRAEL: [WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL](http://WWW.KH-UIA.ORG.IL)**