





A Common Mission

The goal of George Soros's philanthropy is to transform closed societies into open ones and to protect and expand the values of existing open societies. To this end, he has over the past two decades established the Soros foundations network, a decentralized association of nonprofit organizations that share this common mission. These organizations work to achieve their goal by funding and operating an array of activities dealing with the arts and culture broadly defined; the strengthening of civil society; economic development and reform; education at all levels and in diverse subject areas; human rights, with special attention to the rights of marginalized groups; legal reform and public administration; media and information, including publishing, electronic communication, and support for libraries; and public health.

About Open Society

At the most fundamental, philosophical level, the concept of open society is based on the recognition that people act on imperfect knowledge and that no one is in possession of the ultimate truth. In practice, an open society is characterized by the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and minority opinions; the division of power; a market economy in which business and government are separate; and a thriving civil society. Broadly speaking, open society is a way to describe the positive aspects of democracy. The term “open society” was popularized by the philosopher Karl Popper in his 1945 book *Open Society and Its Enemies*.

About the Founder

George Soros is chairman of Soros Fund Management, a private investment management firm. He was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930. He emigrated in 1947 to England, where he graduated from the London School of Economics and in 1956 to the United States, where he began to accumulate a large fortune through his investment activities. In addition to writing many articles on the political and economic changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Soros is the author of *The Alchemy of Finance* (1987), *Opening the Soviet System* (1990), *Underwriting Democracy* (1991), *Soros on Soros: Staying Ahead of the Curve* (1995) and *The Crisis of Global Capitalism* (1998). Soros has received honorary doctoral degrees from the New School for Social Research, Oxford University, the Budapest University of Economics, and Yale University. In 1995, the University of Bologna awarded Soros its highest honor, the Laurea Honoris Causa, in recognition of his efforts to promote open societies throughout the world.

About This Report

This report presents basic information about the activities and expenditures of the organizations in the Soros foundations network. Each entity in the network is treated in a separate entry. Although this causes some repetition in the discussion of issues and priorities, it is the best way to emphasize the independence of the network’s major components and to enumerate the many parts of an organization that has developed into a major force in philanthropy around the world.

The two main organizational categories in the Soros foundations network are “national foundations” and “network programs.” A national foundation is an autonomous institution established in a particular country to initiate and support relevant activities in that country. National foundations are located primarily in the previously communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, but also in other parts of the world. The priorities and specific activities of each national foundation are determined by a local board of directors and staff in consultation with George Soros and his advisors. The Soros foundations network includes foundations in Kosovo and Montenegro and two regional foundations, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (established in early 2000). Regional foundations, which are governed by a board of directors and a staff from the region, make grants in a number of countries. The foundations in Kosovo and Montenegro and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa are listed in the national foundations section of this report.

To varying degrees, all of the national foundations participate in network programs. Network programs address specific program areas—public health, media, early childhood education, for example—on a network-wide basis. Network programs are administered by the Open Society Institute–Budapest or the Open Society Institute in New York and are implemented in cooperation with the national foundations. The network programs section of this report includes the International

OSI Policy Fellowships, a program of the Central European University's Center for Policy Studies.

In addition to the national foundations and the network programs, this report describes a host of other Soros-supported activities and organizations, including programs that focus on the United States, initiatives that deal with issues of global significance, and programs that benefit countries where no national foundation exists. This report is intended to give a broad overview of George Soros's philanthropic undertakings. To obtain more detailed information, contact the organization or program in question at the address provided in the directory at the end of this report, or visit the network's website at www.soros.org.

About 1999 Expenditures

In 1999, the Soros foundations network's expenditures totaled \$560,093,000. Some of these funds were contributed by Soros out of current income, while other funds were derived from charitable entities established by the Soros family. Some organizations in the network also received funds from the U.S. government (particularly for scholarships) and from other donors, which together are included in the relevant organization's expenditures as reported here. The Soros foundations network's total expenditures are summarized below.

Following the report from each national foundation

is a chart outlining 1999 expenditures in that country. Payments made by the Open Society Institute–Budapest, the Open Society Institute in New York, or other entities on behalf of national foundations for network programs or other activities are included in these charts. At the end of the section is a chart showing the total expenditures for national foundations.

Following the section describing the activities of the network programs is a chart detailing each network program's total spending, including national foundation contributions. The goal of presenting the data in this manner is to show the total amount of money expended in a particular country, as well as the total amount spent on a particular program. The resulting duplication of amounts is reflected as an interorganizational elimination in the chart on this page. In addition, other Soros-sponsored organizations made grants in some countries outside the framework of the national foundations or network programs. These are noted in the section of the report dealing with the country in question.

The activities and expenditures of the network grew significantly from 1994 through the peak years of 1998 and 1999. In 1994, expenditures totaled \$300 million; in 1995, \$350 million; in 1996, \$362 million; in 1997, \$429 million; in 1998, \$574.7 million; and now, in 1999, \$560 million. In coming years, as the Soros foundations network reduces its funding role and successful network entities become self-sustaining, expenditures are expected to revert to a level closer to that of 1995 and 1996.

TOTAL SOROS FOUNDATIONS NETWORK EXPENDITURES	\$560,081,000
NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS	250,100,000
NETWORK PROGRAMS	140,653,000
U.S. PROGRAMS	93,116,000
OTHER INITIATIVES	12,487,000
CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY	16,944,000
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRAMS, AND COSTS	116,565,000
INTERORGANIZATIONAL ELIMINATION	(69,784,000)





Constant Change, Unchanging Goals

One of the constants in the Soros foundations network is change. The changes underway at this writing are more rapid and more fundamental than usual. Some changes derive from the recognition that the region where the foundations developed first and where the majority of our activities are concentrated is not one region and has not been one region for some time. The differences between its parts are growing. ∞ What united that region, of course, was its common history of colonization by the Soviet Union. Today, within the Soros foundations network, we think of the region as three fairly distinct areas: the ten Central and Eastern European countries that are candidates for accession to the European Union; the countries of South Eastern Europe that are intended beneficiaries of the Stability Pact; and the countries of the former Soviet Union and

Mongolia (excluding the Baltics, which are included among the accession countries).

Two countries, Bulgaria and Romania, are included in two categories. This seems appropriate. As candidates for accession to the European Union, they lag behind the other candidates economically and, in certain respects, politically. Therefore, they are commonly considered to be furthest from gaining entry. Although they have not been caught up directly in the armed conflicts of South Eastern Europe, it is clear that their development is crucial for the Stability Pact's goals.

In general, the Soros foundations are reducing expenditures in the accession countries. This reflects the fact that our mission is being achieved as these countries become stable, open societies. The countries suffer in varying degree from flaws that mar even the most advanced open societies: inadequate protection of minority rights; failure to provide a safety net for the least advantaged; corruption; and an insufficiently independent and effective judiciary to uphold the rule of law. On the other hand, there are opportunities for citizens of these countries to address such flaws through regular, free, and fair elections; a free press and protection for freedom of speech and assembly; a well-developed civil society; and the establishment of property rights and a market economy.

Another factor that has enabled us to cut back in some measure is the accession process itself. To join the European Union, the ten countries must meet certain criteria. Some are economic; others require them to conform their laws on a range of issues to those of the present EU members; and still others address issues that are the direct focus of our programs. The European Union has informed these ten countries about areas of special concern, including the rights of Roma and other minorities; independence of the judiciary; and corruption. The European Union is committed to expend substantial sums in the next several years in the ten accession countries to help them meet its criteria for membership. This provides the Soros foundations network with an opportunity to influence the accession process to advance our

mission. It requires the foundations to shift from a developmental approach to a focus on public policy. By their nature, policy efforts require the expenditure of less money than developmental programs.

Of course, many foundations have embarked on developmental programs in certain areas, such as education, where commitments must be maintained and where our previous expenditures would be wasted if we discontinued our efforts abruptly. Hence, the shift in focus cannot take place all at once. It is gradual. The goals of these foundations have not changed; rather, their strategy for achieving those goals is altering to meet the new circumstances created by the accession process.

In the countries of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the foundations are committed to substantial expenditures intended to secure matching funds from donor governments in support of indigenous projects promoting European integration through the development of peaceful, lawful, tolerant, and democratic states. Unfortunately, although some Western governments are committing significant resources, it appears that many projects supported through the Stability Pact are devised by institutions in the donor countries for their own institutional purposes. As is often the case with foreign aid, a lot of money is spent on salaries, consulting fees, equipment, and other overhead costs at home. Not only do such efforts fail to develop indigenous capacity, in some instances they undercut it through heavily subsidized competition.

George Soros and the foundations network have spearheaded the effort to direct Stability Pact resources to programs emanating from the countries of South Eastern Europe, but it is a difficult struggle and the outcome is not clear. Western governments have expended enormous resources during the past decade in dealing with the conflicts that have ravaged the region, and the cost in human suffering endured by several countries has been incalculable. It would be a shame if the best chance for turning a page in the history of South Eastern Europe were wasted by shortsighted implementation of the Stability Pact.

The Soviet system endured longest in the third part of what we previously considered a single region. No special effort is being made by Western governments to address the difficulties confronting these countries—difficulties that, in certain respects, are becoming more severe. An example is the public health disasters they face. Tuberculosis and its more frightening offshoot, Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis, are spreading in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union in large part because these diseases find ideal breeding grounds in the overcrowded, badly ventilated prisons of the area. Poor nutrition and poor health conditions contribute to the inmates' susceptibility to infection. The former Soviet countries also face the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS because of the trafficking in intravenously injected heroin from Afghanistan, which has overtaken Burma as the world's leading producer.

The foundations network is addressing these issues by treating TB and MDRTB in the Russian prisons and establishing more than 100 "harm reduction centers," the majority in the former Soviet Union, to provide education, counseling, and clean needles for heroin users. Fortunately, the World Bank, recognizing the gravity of these health problems, is negotiating loans to Russia and other former Soviet countries. It seems evident that the foundations must maintain programs in the former Soviet Union of a sort that we are moving away from in the accession countries. Extension or replication of these programs by an international body such as the World Bank is particularly desirable since the needs are far greater than we can meet by ourselves.

Having accomplished part of its mission in the European Union accession countries, the foundations network is expanding to other parts of the world. Globalization of the network has been underway for several years. In 1993, George Soros established a foundation in South Africa where his philanthropy began in 1979. The South African foundation's major programs focus on community radio, education in math and science for children in the poorest parts of the country, and crime and criminal justice. In addition, we have helped to estab-

lish an independent agency, NURCHA, the National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency, that is making low-cost housing available to hundreds of thousands of poor South Africans. In 1995, we established a foundation in Haiti; we launched a full range of programs in the United States in 1996; and we established the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, providing support for programs in nine countries of the region, and a foundation in Guatemala, in 1998.

Now, with the new millennium, the foundations network is expanding further in Africa with the establishment of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa covering 16 countries, and also with a commitment to support projects in Central Africa that contribute to ethnic tolerance and a reduction in conflict. In addition, we are developing the capacity to support programs in Southeast Asia. We entered the region in 1994 by establishing the Burma Project, which operates outside the country to promote change in one of the world's most repressive nations. In extending our work in the region, we are focusing particularly on Indonesia where a legacy of brutal and corrupt military rule has created a volatile situation at the same time that a democratic transition provides hope that the country could develop as an open society. We are also exploring opportunities in the Middle East where a few countries are becoming important battlegrounds for open society values.

Some of the developments, such as the new initiatives in West Africa and Southeast Asia, are too recent to be discussed in this report for 1999. They will be described in next year's report. Though we are at the beginning of the final decade of the Soros foundations network—which is scheduled to end as a network in 2010, though some component parts will undoubtedly be sustained as independent entities—the time for innovations has not passed. There will be further changes to discuss in the report for 2000.

— *Aryeh Neier*
June 2000





Vision, Adaptability, And a Local Presence

In the year of living dangerously in Kosovo, the Soros foundations network responded to the continuing instability in South Eastern Europe by focusing its resources and energies on programs for immediate survival, long-term reform, and regional cooperation. The effort around the Kosovo crisis epitomized the network's mission to build and protect open societies even in the face of intolerance, suspicion, and hostility. Throughout Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, and many other places in the world, the network provided leadership with its inclusive vision, strong local presence, and adaptability to changing conditions.

On the following pages, the executive directors of the national foundations that form the core of the Soros foundations network report on the programs and activities of their organizations in 1999. These reports provide only a brief overview of each foundation's work. For more detailed information about a particular foundation's activities, contact that foundation at the address provided in the directory on page 177. Many of the foundation reports refer to participation in network programs. For additional information about network programs, see the section beginning on page 92.

The priorities and specific activities of each national foundation are determined by a local board of directors and professional program staff. Foundation boards of directors are made up of distinguished local citizens from different ethnic, geographic, political, and professional backgrounds. Given the diversity of social, political, and economic conditions that prevails in the countries of the network, programs vary greatly in nature and significance from one foundation to another. Yet all foundation activities share in the common mission of promoting and supporting the development of open society.

At the end of 1999, there were 29 national foundations as well as foundations in Kosovo and Montenegro and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, which is active in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Soros-supported foundation in Belarus remains closed because of the oppressive government there, but the network, through the Open Society Institute–Paris, continues to fund a variety of activities in that country. In early 2000, the network expanded with the creation of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, which will cover an additional 16 countries.

In 1999, the aftermath of the fighting in Kosovo brought the introduction of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, a collaborative effort of the international community to encourage efforts in the region

aimed at fostering peace, security, democracy, respect for human rights, and economic prosperity. The Soros foundations network, through its national foundations, network programs, and representative offices, participated in the development of the Stability Pact structure and is placing considerable financial and human resources into the successful implementation of its goals. In 2000, the network will disburse approximately \$50 million to indigenous projects undertaken in the spirit of the Pact. The national foundations in the Stability Pact countries support projects initiated by local organizations to meet the region's needs and, in promoting these projects, aim to develop partnerships with other international donors working in South Eastern Europe.

The national foundations in the ten Central and Eastern European countries accepted as candidates for accession to the European Union (EU) made support for the enlargement process an important part of their work in 1999. EU admission requires candidate countries to meet a series of criteria, such as protection of the rights of Roma and other minorities and independence of the judiciary, that are central to the mission of the Soros foundations network. Despite major differences between the accession countries and the Stability Pact nations, the ultimate goal for both is to enter into the European mainstream.

While many national foundations report progress, both great and small, in the building of open societies, several also describe events that cast shadows on the network's activities. The assassination of the prime minister in Armenia, the attempted assassination of the president in Uzbekistan, the tensions in South Eastern Europe, the imprisonment of journalists (and OSI's coordinator) in Angola—all these events and many others created obstacles for open society. In spite of such difficult circumstances, foundation staff continued their work with persistence and courage.

KOSOVO : GARY FABIANO



Kosovar refugees in Albania, spring 1999







Open Society Foundation for Albania

“Too many young people are leaving Albania for brighter prospects abroad. OSFA supports programs that offer incentives to the young to stay home and participate in the country’s economic and social progress.”

MILVA EKONOMI, BOARD CHAIR

People under the age of 18 represent 60 percent of Albania’s population. The strain of the ongoing and protracted transition has left many young people disillusioned with democracy and dispirited about the future. In 1999, the Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA) focused on a variety of activities to support young people’s education and encourage their participation in the country’s economic recovery and social progress.

The need to retain the energy and talent of young people is evident in a recent study sponsored by OSFA: 60 percent of the 800 Albanian graduates of foreign universities said they did not wish to come back to the country. Those who do return search for employment in international organizations or the private sector, but rarely in public service, where low salaries and conservative attitudes inhibit newcomers from contributing to the process of national reform.

OSFA initiated a Fellowship Program in 1999 to deal with the “brain drain,” selecting 42 Fellows in the first year. The Program provides incentives for young people educated abroad to return home to Albania and, at the same time, reinvigorates public administration ministries and agencies through professional placements abroad. OSFA will endeavor to create a nucleus of Fellows in the ministries and agencies involved with reform.

Also in 1999, to encourage young people to create businesses in their home country, OSFA contributed to the Besa Foundation, a microcrediting organization funded jointly with the Albanian government and the World Bank. Besa provides funding and consultancy for the start-up and operation of small businesses, with a particular emphasis on assistance for young entrepreneurs.

OSFA continued its support for a variety of activities that the Foundation has created over the past eight years in response to the dramatic increase in the number of young people leaving the country. To provide alternatives and opportunities for young people, OSFA has designed and implemented its own strategy of incentives for the younger generation: programs in education and training, the development of future leaders, and the integration of young people into the country’s economic and social life.

OSFA has long valued the role that education can play in promoting a democratic culture from an early age. In 1999, OSFA continued to support the Student Counseling Program to provide young people with information about opportunities for education both in the country and abroad. The Career Counseling Program continued to help young people understand the rapidly changing labor market and work environment. OSFA also maintained its Scholarship Program to provide funding for young people in higher education institutions abroad.

In recognition of the many pressures and challenges facing young people, OSFA continued to provide major support to NGOs dealing with youth issues. Not only do these NGOs help address problems related to drug abuse and sexual health, but they contribute to the development in young people of critical thinking, conflict resolution skills, and life goals.

OSFA also continued to contribute to the building of autonomous public institutions in areas such as education and arts and culture. These areas are of special relevance to the educational and recreational needs of young men and women, providing them with the opportunities to express their views and establish their identities through theater, dance, and sports.

www.soros.al

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$5,355,000
ARTS & CULTURE	291,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	80,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	50,000
EAST EAST	85,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	735,000
EDUCATION	812,000
INFORMATION	680,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	290,000
MEDIA	512,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	211,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	294,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	20,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	202,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	529,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	218,000
ADMINISTRATION	346,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Albania totaling \$10,517,000, principally for the Albanian Educational Development Program.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Armenia

“The assassinations of the prime minister and speaker of the Parliament in October served as a reminder of how urgent and important the open society mission is in Armenia.”

GAREGIN CHOOKASZIAN, BOARD CHAIR

Restructuring throughout 1999 improved efficiency of operations and helped ensure the long-term sustainability of programs supported by the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Armenia. In addition, stronger partnerships with NGOs were forged during the year through the introduction of a program for institutional grants. As indigenous Armenian NGOs become the implementing partners of OSIAF–Armenia, they build their own capacities and assume leadership roles in efforts to promote democracy and open society.

In October, momentum toward democracy and legal and economic reform suffered a tragic setback with the assassinations of the prime minister and the speaker of the Parliament. A shocked public became alienated and skeptical about the ability of individuals to participate in public life and advocate for change. These events served as a reminder of how urgent and important the open society mission is in Armenia. The Foundation recognized that support for mature, vibrant indigenous civil society organizations is crucial to ensuring their leadership in this time of change.

Prior to October, however, the country enjoyed a sense of promise. Many considered the year to be a milestone in the furthering of economic reform and strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law, and looked forward to the parliamentary and local government elections, held weeks before the assassinations. For OSIAF–Armenia as well, the year overall was a time not only of improvements in its strategies and struc-

tures, but also of advances in its programs on mass media, women’s issues, and the law.

The first legal clinic was launched at the law department of Yerevan State University, the most influential law school in Armenia. The legal clinic is linked to OSI’s Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute and other justice initiatives of the Foundation, including the free legal aid center for vulnerable groups. To bridge programs in law and mass media, the law school developed and introduced a course on freedom of speech and access to information.

Journalism education was the focus of two institutional grant projects initiated in 1999 by the Media Program with the Yerevan Press Club and Internews, Armenia. The projects seek to develop curricula for graduate and undergraduate studies at Yerevan State University, upgrade the professional skills of journalists and media professionals, promote the exchange of information within the country and worldwide, and strengthen Armenian journalism organizations and legislation.

Armenian scientists and educators gained access to information on a global level in 1999 when the country was connected to Electronic Information for Libraries, an electronic database that is a joint initiative of the Open Society Institute and EBSCO Publishing.

To raise awareness about human rights, OSIAF–Armenia supported a project that encouraged communities and legislators to address the lack of legislation on the social and economic rights of vulnerable groups, to bring existing laws into accord with international standards, and to establish a system of monitoring and accountability.

The Internet and National Education programs, redesigned in 1999, increased school outreach and community involvement in education. A network of schools and organizations provided the training and support required to develop the idea of “community schools.” The aim is not only to strengthen community participation, but also to improve the quality of the education system by introducing modern methodology and criteria for curricula development.

The Step by Step Program expanded to 23 preschools and 10 primary classrooms, reaching all but two regions of Armenia. The program team also started the network program Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking in Armenia, which will add to both the content and sustainability of both programs as they become independent.

www.soros.org/armenia/html

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$2,045,000
ARTS & CULTURE	178,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	133,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	21,000
EAST EAST	61,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	71,000
EDUCATION	440,000
ETHNIC MINORITIES	18,000
INFORMATION	434,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	89,000
MEDIA	263,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	95,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	63,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	29,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	9,000
ADMINISTRATION	141,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Armenia totaling \$777,000, principally for education programs.

Open Society Institute– Assistance Foundation (Azerbaijan)

“In 1999, the foundation took significant steps to reduce Azerbaijan’s isolation through Internet, education, and information programs. We also continue to support initiatives that decrease the information gap between Baku and the provinces.”

RAUF TALYSHINSKY, BOARD CHAIR

In 1999, the Open Society Institute–Assistance Foundation (Azerbaijan) continued to focus on the decentralization of information, youth empowerment through education, and the development of civil society.

In fostering the free flow of information, the Foundation’s Internet center expanded its activity, providing more than 37,000 hours of training to nearly 4,000 users. OSI–AF and the United States Information Agency (USIA), both of which operate public access Internet training centers, cofunded the development of an academic network in Baku and the provinces. The Baku network now includes Azerbaijan’s major universities and institutes, as well as the national library.

The Foundation is cooperating with USIA to establish an academic Internet consortium by sharing the high cost of international connectivity and providing access to institutions that otherwise could not afford it. A major boost to these efforts came from the NATO Science Program, which awarded a grant in the fall of 1999 to cofund connectivity for the OSI/USIA network.

Two other programs working to reduce Azerbaijan’s information vacuum are the Baku Education Information Center (BEIC) and the Library Program. Partially sponsored by USIA, BEIC provides 1,500 visitors per month with information on scholarship programs, grant competitions, and English language materials. In the

same space, donated by the Baku Music Academy, the Foundation has established an arts information center, which allows Azeri artists and students to learn more about the arts world beyond Azerbaijan. The Library Program has focused on training, automation management, and English. Small grants to several key libraries have laid the framework for a national electronic cataloguing system. Much more training is necessary, but real progress was made in 1999.

Another group of programs focused on education. In its second year in Azerbaijan, the Step by Step Program expanded its activities to 16 kindergartens and five schools and established two training centers. Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking (RWCT), which began in the summer of 1999, quickly established a team of 30 teachers, who in turn will teach the RWCT methods to their colleagues. On the basis of its experience in preschool and elementary education through Step by Step and RWCT, the Foundation was invited to submit a proposal to the World Bank for a two-year technical assistance program for teacher training and curriculum development. At the high school and university level, other education programs focused on debate, history textbook development, curriculum reform, and teacher training.

Civil society development is the third main program area for the Foundation. The main focus in 1999 was on the law: legal education, access to justice, and legal information. Khazar University opened Azerbaijan’s first university law clinic in the fall. A grant to Azerbaijan’s Democracy Development Foundation funded a legal aid center, legal advice for NGOs, and, in cooperation with the Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia and many local NGO leaders, a series of NGO information and legal advice bulletins published as inserts in two major Azeri- and Russian-language newspapers.

Open Society Fund– Bosnia and Herzegovina

Due to the small number of NGOs in Azerbaijan, the foundation has worked to encourage the creation and development of NGOs in fields related to the open society mission. In 1999, the Foundation played a role in the creation of a history teachers’ association, AzLA (Azerbaijan Library Development Association), and Junior Achievement Azerbaijan. The Foundation also provided training and small grants to public health and education NGOs. These efforts will continue in 2000, focusing on establishing an academic Internet consortium, a national debate NGO, an Azerbaijan Reading Association, and an early childhood education NGO.

www.osi-az.org

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$3,141,000
ARTS & CULTURE	109,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	67,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	128,000
EAST EAST	44,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	52,000
EDUCATION	1,015,000
INFORMATION	619,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	175,000
MEDIA	100,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	4,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	181,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	111,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	66,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	7,000
ADMINISTRATION	463,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Azerbaijan totaling \$1,067,000, principally for education and civil society programs.

“Independent media supported by the Fund are strengthening open society with their fearless reporting on issues of vital concern to the public.”

HRVOJE BATINIC, MEDIA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Bosnia and Herzegovina entered 1999 with problems dating back to the signing of the Dayton peace accords in 1995. Insufficient economic progress, the slow pace of the return of refugees and displaced persons, the lack of political will to develop democratic processes, and the divided educational system are only some of the hurdles on the road to open society in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In July 1999, at the summit of world leaders in Sarajevo, the international community expressed its commitment to democratic and economic development and the will to create conditions for stability and cooperation in Europe. To make good on this commitment, the international community is putting resources behind the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, which will affect the work not only of the Open Society Fund–Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also of other Soros-supported foundations in the region.

In 1999, the Fund continued its efforts to build the infrastructure of open society through support for NGOs, independent media, education (from preschool to graduate), arts and culture, law and civil society, and publishing.

The foundation allocated the largest part of its budget toward improving the country’s chaotic education system, which is divided along lines of national identity. The Step by Step preschool and primary school programs probably came closest to achieving an almost unified education strategy in the region. Step by Step operated throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in 52

kindergartens, 19 primary schools, and five universities that train teachers.

The foundation's second biggest endeavor was the Media Program, which, in 1999, focused on strengthening the media's influence on democratic processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Program, while remaining open to all projects showing potential, emphasized support for print media because the independent newspapers and magazines practice journalism on a much higher professional level than radio and TV. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, investigative journalism is synonymous with print media, most notably the Sarajevo weeklies *Slobodna Bosna* and *Dani*, and the Banjaluka daily *Nezavisne Novine* and weekly *Reporter*.

The independent media provided a truly autonomous space for the development of public speech and dialogue based on free and available information about important social and political issues. The results of the local elections in April 2000, when the multi-ethnic Social Democratic Party defeated the old nationalist parties in most predominantly Bosniak municipalities, can be credited in part to the increasing influence of the independent media.

Unfortunately, objective, professional journalism is also one of the region's most dangerous professions, as was tragically proved, once again, in October 1999 with the assassination attempt on Zeljko Kopanja, editor-in-chief of the *Nezavisne Novine*. Kopanja survived, but lost both legs.

The most prominent electronic media outlet supported by the foundation is the Media Center in Sarajevo. Active since 1995, it offers training through the BBC School for Electronic Media and the Journalism Workshops on Site program, and the use of electronic research capabilities through the Information-Documetary Center. The Media Center's primary aim is to make sure that young journalists in South Eastern

Europe enter electronic media careers with adequate training and preparation. Some 170 journalists from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina completed training programs during the last four years. Since September 1999, when the BBC School adopted a regional approach, journalists from Serbia and Montenegro have also joined the program. The Center seeks to expand its mission to provide training and access to information not only for local and regional journalists, but also for the representatives of the international organizations dealing with regional media.

www.soros.org.ba

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$6,026,000
ARTS & CULTURE	628,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	79,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	124,000
EAST EAST	124,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	385,000
EDUCATION	1,012,000
INFORMATION	652,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	195,000
MEDIA	1,146,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	56,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	230,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	39,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	83,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	188,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	520,000
ADMINISTRATION	565,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Bosnia & Herzegovina totaling \$948,000, principally for education, youth, and landmines programs.

Open Society Foundation– Sofia (Bulgaria)

“We are facing a profound change in the Foundation’s orientation. OSF–Sofia is developing a proactive position vis-a-vis society in order to promote its values and assure their long-lasting impact.”

GEORGI GENCHEV, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When Bulgaria received an official invitation to start negotiations with the European Union (EU) in 1999, the Open Society Foundation–Sofia established a new policy: to include a European dimension in all programs, yet preserve the flexibility to address other important societal issues.

OSF–Sofia established the European Institute to provide EU expertise to the government and to work on government-commissioned research projects. In keeping with its open society agenda, the Foundation participated in strategic initiatives such as the forward-looking National Plan for Economic Development. It also remained committed to longtime priorities such as education and culture.

In cooperation with the European Union, the Foundation monitored EU-funded projects and, upon invitation, joined the working group for a new EU ACCESS program. The Association of Open Society Clubs also administered the PHARE Partnership program of the European Union.

In collaboration with USAID and ABA-CEELI, the Foundation established the Magistrates Training Center, which received an endorsement from the Ministry of Justice and a funding commitment from the European Commission. Training for penitentiary staff on European and international standards governing the treatment of prisoners was one of several projects for prison reform.

To promote good governance, the Public Administration Staff Training Project and a consortium of higher education institutions trained local government administration representatives in basic managerial skills. To increase citizens’ access to information, several projects helped draft the Access to Information Law and carried out extensive public awareness campaigns.

In the field of education, OSF–Sofia focused on harmonizing Bulgarian higher education with EU standards, quality assurance, and management. A joint project on new information management strategies was launched with the Ministry of Education. A set of indicators was developed for quality management in higher education, a project that was endorsed by the Ministry of Education, the EU, and the World Bank.

Minority issues were another priority area in 1999, with continued support to the 11 Roma Community Centers set up to provide administrative and legal services and mediation with local authorities. Activities included seminars, university scholarships, English language teaching courses, and training for primary school teaching assistants.

Programs of the Media Development Center supported a Romani newspaper and magazine, two Armenian language newspapers, and a Turkish language newspaper and children’s magazine. A weekly broadcast in Turkish and a Romani biweekly television show went on the air in 1999. A network of journalists from the Balkan countries produced *The Balkans* magazine, with a print version in Bulgarian and a website version in English. The Center also promoted internationally accepted standards of journalism and organized training courses in radio management and journalism skills.

In the area of public health, the Foundation funded a feasibility study that served as a basis for new regulations for hospice management, helped set up a Palliative Care Foundation to launch the first hospice in the country, and provided support to HIV-positive patients through counseling and advocacy.

In response to the war in Kosovo, the Foundation provided medicines and consumables for refugees in camps, conducted a needs assessment in a Macedonian hospital, and created a website to inform policymakers, journalists, and political scientists throughout the crisis.

Young people representing 45 youth organizations from countries throughout Europe participated in a European youth week in Sofia. An NGO Resource Center was established early in the year with start-up support from OSF–Sofia to provide training, consultation, and information. The movement toward European Union integration is felt particularly in the NGO community, which will have a larger role and more political leverage in civil society as the democratic process unfolds in Bulgaria.

www.osf.bg

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$9,398,000
ARTS & CULTURE	767,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	1,647,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	(1,000)
EAST EAST	383,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	374,000
EDUCATION	1,842,000
INFORMATION	453,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	763,000
MEDIA	329,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	383,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	408,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	273,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	85,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	260,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	806,000
ADMINISTRATION	626,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Bulgaria totaling \$4,072,000, principally for education, human rights, and ethnic minorities programs.

Open Society Institute–Croatia

“Karmen Basic was a patriot whose far-reaching vision of what Croatia could be—and should be—guided the many successful efforts of OSI–Croatia in moving toward an open society.”

ARYEH NEIER, PRESIDENT, OSI

As 1999 came to a close, the Open Society Institute–Croatia reflected on the many obstacles that blocked the road to democracy during the past decade. Croatia was held back not only by war, but also by an authoritarian regime that further cut off the country from integration with Europe.

Transformation, a complex process, was so narrowly defined that the ultimate goal seemed merely to declare the existence of a state. “We have Croatia!” the leadership exclaimed. Beyond this, however, progress was unclear, and expectations that a free market would be a universal remedy for the country’s developmental problems seemed more like the imaginings of a fairy tale.

The obstacles to building a democratic society encountered by OSI–Croatia over the decade continued to prevail in 1999. Political illiteracy allowed President Tudjman’s party to define what was right or wrong, and only recently has OSI–Croatia noted a more active public interest in the political life of the country. Another obstacle has been the reduced individual sovereignty brought about by increasing unemployment and economic dependence. The culture, effective in provoking traditional national values, became all but entirely dysfunctional in coping with the modernization of Croatian society.

Freedom of choice—political, economic, and cultural—was so restricted by corruption that the country could be best characterized as an arrogantly open dictatorial regime. For many years, public opinion did not count, governmental institutions did not function, and the media was controlled. In this atmosphere, OSI–Croatia endeavored to bring about change through transparency, diversity, and integrity.

A real opportunity for change came with Tudjman’s death in December and the January 2000 parliamentary and presidential elections. OSI–Croatia devoted many of its efforts in 1999 to preparing for the elections, which offered the hope that Croatia might finally embark on the road to democracy and a truly open society.

The foundation supported projects to raise public awareness and to tap the synergistic potential of the NGO networks patiently constructed over the years. A coalition of NGOs burst into action through two foundation-supported projects: VOICE 99 for the parliamentary elections and VOICE 2000 for the presidential elections three weeks later.

VOICE 99, with 140 NGOs participating, focused on raising awareness about the importance of the elections, encouraging young people to vote, and monitoring the actual elections. Voter turnout was the highest in the past 10 years—76 percent—and the election favored truly democratic parties. The real outcome will be measured by the degree of democratization achieved in the future. The media, politicians, and voters recognized the contributions of OSI–Croatia’s programs in awakening public participation and enhancing political literacy.

Acknowledgement for the progress and success achieved by OSI–Croatia must go to Karmen Basic, who served as executive director from 1992 until her death in March 1999. She was instrumental in the VOICE 99 project and many other initiatives over the years. Go ahead, she would say. So we continue.

www.soros.hr/open.htm

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$6,969,000
ARTS & CULTURE	760,000
EAST EAST	184,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	606,000
EDUCATION	966,000
INFORMATION	503,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	261,000
MEDIA	607,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	342,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	110,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	187,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	496,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	1,386,000
ADMINISTRATION	561,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Croatia totaling \$1,175,000, principally for human rights, media, and education programs.

Open Society Fund–Prague (Czech Republic)

“As a number of our more successful and mature programs became independent organizations, the Fund turned its attention to helping the Czech Republic complete the European Union accession process.”

SIMON PANEK, BOARD CHAIR

A number of programs of the Open Society Fund–Prague (OSFP) became independent organizations in 1999 or were absorbed by existing NGOs. The spin-offs included programs that date back to OSFP’s first activities in the Czech Republic almost a decade ago. The reason behind such an important step was that the programs were both successful and mature. Among them were Step by Step, the Education Support Project (known by the Czech acronym PORYV), programs in critical thinking, debate, and the Internet, and the relatively new but very successful Volunteer Development Program. While these programs will continue to be supported by the Fund, they will also be encouraged to seek funding from outside sources to sustain their activities over the long-term.

As part of an ongoing nationwide discussion on education strategy, PORYV invited education professionals and the public to contribute their opinions, reactions, and feedback on education issues. PORYV’s findings will result in a White Book on Czech Education.

OSFP was one of only two Czech foundations to receive grants from the Czech government in the field of education in 1999, a sign of recognition for the significant role of the Fund in education. OSFP was awarded approximately \$800,000. Revenues from this endowment will be distributed in coming years to advance Czech education.

Support for Roma remained an OSFP priority. The prevailing problems continued, although some positive change seems to be taking place in public attitudes toward this minority. Scholarships for higher education were awarded to talented Romani students, mentoring programs were organized, and support was provided to various indigenous Romani organizations. OSFP is one of only two leading Czech NGOs to offer consistent and considerable support to Roma.

Although OSFP continued to participate in many network programs and to support a wide array of community-oriented activities and arts and culture programs, the main activities of the Fund focused on helping the Czech Republic complete the European Union accession process. Both OSFP and the European Commission have identified many of the same problem areas.

To advance judicial reform, for example, OSFP initiated a new law program in 1999 in cooperation with the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute. In collaboration with the American Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice, the Fund will prepare an educational project on human rights protection for judges and state attorneys. In the area of prison reform, OSFP, working with the Ministry of Justice, supported the development of probation and remedial services by offering training for probation officers and assistants. In addition, planning took place for the forthcoming First Step Project to address the issue of Roma-related crime in the Czech Republic. OSFP continued supporting Transparency International, which deals with corruption that threatens to destabilize citizen confidence in democratic principles and institutions.

Open Estonia Foundation

“The period of emotional approaches to the problem of nationalities in Estonia is just about over, and the time is ripe for the initiation of a rational discussion.”

MATI HEIDMETS, BOARD CHAIR—1999

Cooperation with other countries in Central and Eastern Europe also continued to be an important and valued program area during the year, realized through the East East and Cultural Link programs.

www.osf.cz

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$3,581,000
ARTS & CULTURE	467,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	421,000
EAST EAST	124,000
EDUCATION	945,000
INFORMATION	164,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	249,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	2,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	121,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	300,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	50,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	460,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	86,000
ADMINISTRATION	192,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in the Czech Republic totaling \$1,217,000, principally in education, information, and media programs.

The Open Estonia Foundation (OEF) strives to build communities in which citizens are engaged and empowered—and the public, private, and nonprofit sectors are not only accountable but actively lend support to open society. The Foundation is deeply concerned about the inclusion of all citizens in the building of such communities, believing that one measure of an open society is the well-being of all citizens, including those living on its periphery.

A vision of democracy, freedom, inclusiveness, and opportunity for all people living in Estonia has guided OEF's programs over the past decade. Although major projects on integration concluded in 1999, the Foundation will continue to focus on responsible practices in government, public participation, tolerance, and social equality for all national groups.

Estonia's population includes 1.1 million Estonian citizens as well as 400,000 people who have applied for or been granted citizenship of some other country, or who have not yet determined their citizenship. Russians represent the largest single minority. Too many people are not empowered to participate equally in social and state life. In response to this situation, OEF's Integration Program took steps to address the insecurity that non-Estonians feel about their future, and to reduce the anxiety of Estonian citizens about their national identity and culture. It did so by emphasizing the future, working with children and young people, raising confidence in people's ability to integrate successfully, and positioning integration in terms of the country's social and economic development.

The important Ethnic Relations megaprogram, which was launched in 1998 and ended in 1999, included the following projects: Continuous and Individual Language Learning of Russian and Estonian Children in Families, Non-Estonians to Estonian Universities, Monitoring the Integration Process, the State Official in a Multicultural Society, Estonia as a Multicultural Society, and Reflections of National Relations in the Media. Also concluded in 1999 was an advertising campaign promoting diversity—Lots of Great People—that was well-received throughout the country.

As a result of OEF efforts, a professional network of NGOs and individuals is now well-established to increase the potential of society to bring various nationality groups together. In addition, the integration programs of the state have adopted a number of ideas and approaches, such as language learning in families, an outreach program for the supplementary admission of Russian young people to universities, training for workers of the Citizenship and Immigration Service, and the voluntary assignment of teachers to the schools of East Virumaa.

As the integration projects concluded in 1999, OEF focused on a new initiative: volunteerism. Two new programs were launched in East Virumaa, an area populated largely by non-Estonians and characterized by a low level of social participation, limited language skills, and a high level of unemployment.

OEF conducted a large-scale program, Libraries as Centers of Local Life, to help boost community activity and continuing education in small localities suffering from underdevelopment. The communities also welcomed other programs, including one that was designed to integrate street children and another to preempt the use of drugs by young people.

As OEF approaches its 10th anniversary in 2000, it plans to concentrate on the science and art of public policy in order to further improve the policymaking process in Estonia.

www.oef.org.ee

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$4,570,000
ARTS & CULTURE	392,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	642,000
EAST EAST	175,000
EDUCATION	745,000
ETHNIC MINORITIES	153,000
INFORMATION	781,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	229,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	523,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	42,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	442,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	188,000
ADMINISTRATION	258,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Estonia totaling \$572,000, principally in education programs.





Vision, Adaptability, And a Local Presence

In the year of living dangerously in Kosovo, the Soros foundations network responded to the continuing instability in South Eastern Europe by focusing its resources and energies on programs for immediate survival, long-term reform, and regional cooperation. The effort around the Kosovo crisis epitomized the network's mission to build and protect open societies even in the face of intolerance, suspicion, and hostility. Throughout Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, and many other places in the world, the network provided leadership with its inclusive vision, strong local presence, and adaptability to changing conditions.

On the following pages, the executive directors of the national foundations that form the core of the Soros foundations network report on the programs and activities of their organizations in 1999. These reports provide only a brief overview of each foundation's work. For more detailed information about a particular foundation's activities, contact that foundation at the address provided in the directory on page 177. Many of the foundation reports refer to participation in network programs. For additional information about network programs, see the section beginning on page 92.

The priorities and specific activities of each national foundation are determined by a local board of directors and professional program staff. Foundation boards of directors are made up of distinguished local citizens from different ethnic, geographic, political, and professional backgrounds. Given the diversity of social, political, and economic conditions that prevails in the countries of the network, programs vary greatly in nature and significance from one foundation to another. Yet all foundation activities share in the common mission of promoting and supporting the development of open society.

At the end of 1999, there were 29 national foundations as well as foundations in Kosovo and Montenegro and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, which is active in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Soros-supported foundation in Belarus remains closed because of the oppressive government there, but the network, through the Open Society Institute–Paris, continues to fund a variety of activities in that country. In early 2000, the network expanded with the creation of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, which will cover an additional 16 countries.

In 1999, the aftermath of the fighting in Kosovo brought the introduction of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, a collaborative effort of the international community to encourage efforts in the region

aimed at fostering peace, security, democracy, respect for human rights, and economic prosperity. The Soros foundations network, through its national foundations, network programs, and representative offices, participated in the development of the Stability Pact structure and is placing considerable financial and human resources into the successful implementation of its goals. In 2000, the network will disburse approximately \$50 million to indigenous projects undertaken in the spirit of the Pact. The national foundations in the Stability Pact countries support projects initiated by local organizations to meet the region's needs and, in promoting these projects, aim to develop partnerships with other international donors working in South Eastern Europe.

The national foundations in the ten Central and Eastern European countries accepted as candidates for accession to the European Union (EU) made support for the enlargement process an important part of their work in 1999. EU admission requires candidate countries to meet a series of criteria, such as protection of the rights of Roma and other minorities and independence of the judiciary, that are central to the mission of the Soros foundations network. Despite major differences between the accession countries and the Stability Pact nations, the ultimate goal for both is to enter into the European mainstream.

While many national foundations report progress, both great and small, in the building of open societies, several also describe events that cast shadows on the network's activities. The assassination of the prime minister in Armenia, the attempted assassination of the president in Uzbekistan, the tensions in South Eastern Europe, the imprisonment of journalists (and OSI's coordinator) in Angola—all these events and many others created obstacles for open society. In spite of such difficult circumstances, foundation staff continued their work with persistence and courage.

KOSOVO : GARY FABIANO



Kosovar refugees in Albania, spring 1999







Open Society Foundation for Albania

“Too many young people are leaving Albania for brighter prospects abroad. OSFA supports programs that offer incentives to the young to stay home and participate in the country’s economic and social progress.”

MILVA EKONOMI, BOARD CHAIR

People under the age of 18 represent 60 percent of Albania’s population. The strain of the ongoing and protracted transition has left many young people disillusioned with democracy and dispirited about the future. In 1999, the Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA) focused on a variety of activities to support young people’s education and encourage their participation in the country’s economic recovery and social progress.

The need to retain the energy and talent of young people is evident in a recent study sponsored by OSFA: 60 percent of the 800 Albanian graduates of foreign universities said they did not wish to come back to the country. Those who do return search for employment in international organizations or the private sector, but rarely in public service, where low salaries and conservative attitudes inhibit newcomers from contributing to the process of national reform.

OSFA initiated a Fellowship Program in 1999 to deal with the “brain drain,” selecting 42 Fellows in the first year. The Program provides incentives for young people educated abroad to return home to Albania and, at the same time, reinvigorates public administration ministries and agencies through professional placements abroad. OSFA will endeavor to create a nucleus of Fellows in the ministries and agencies involved with reform.

Also in 1999, to encourage young people to create businesses in their home country, OSFA contributed to the Besa Foundation, a microcrediting organization funded jointly with the Albanian government and the World Bank. Besa provides funding and consultancy for the start-up and operation of small businesses, with a particular emphasis on assistance for young entrepreneurs.

OSFA continued its support for a variety of activities that the Foundation has created over the past eight years in response to the dramatic increase in the number of young people leaving the country. To provide alternatives and opportunities for young people, OSFA has designed and implemented its own strategy of incentives for the younger generation: programs in education and training, the development of future leaders, and the integration of young people into the country’s economic and social life.

OSFA has long valued the role that education can play in promoting a democratic culture from an early age. In 1999, OSFA continued to support the Student Counseling Program to provide young people with information about opportunities for education both in the country and abroad. The Career Counseling Program continued to help young people understand the rapidly changing labor market and work environment. OSFA also maintained its Scholarship Program to provide funding for young people in higher education institutions abroad.

In recognition of the many pressures and challenges facing young people, OSFA continued to provide major support to NGOs dealing with youth issues. Not only do these NGOs help address problems related to drug abuse and sexual health, but they contribute to the development in young people of critical thinking, conflict resolution skills, and life goals.

OSFA also continued to contribute to the building of autonomous public institutions in areas such as education and arts and culture. These areas are of special relevance to the educational and recreational needs of young men and women, providing them with the opportunities to express their views and establish their identities through theater, dance, and sports.

www.soros.al

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$5,355,000
ARTS & CULTURE	291,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	80,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	50,000
EAST EAST	85,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	735,000
EDUCATION	812,000
INFORMATION	680,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	290,000
MEDIA	512,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	211,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	294,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	20,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	202,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	529,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	218,000
ADMINISTRATION	346,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Albania totaling \$10,517,000, principally for the Albanian Educational Development Program.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Armenia

“The assassinations of the prime minister and speaker of the Parliament in October served as a reminder of how urgent and important the open society mission is in Armenia.”

GAREGIN CHOOKASZIAN, BOARD CHAIR

Restructuring throughout 1999 improved efficiency of operations and helped ensure the long-term sustainability of programs supported by the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Armenia. In addition, stronger partnerships with NGOs were forged during the year through the introduction of a program for institutional grants. As indigenous Armenian NGOs become the implementing partners of OSIAF–Armenia, they build their own capacities and assume leadership roles in efforts to promote democracy and open society.

In October, momentum toward democracy and legal and economic reform suffered a tragic setback with the assassinations of the prime minister and the speaker of the Parliament. A shocked public became alienated and skeptical about the ability of individuals to participate in public life and advocate for change. These events served as a reminder of how urgent and important the open society mission is in Armenia. The Foundation recognized that support for mature, vibrant indigenous civil society organizations is crucial to ensuring their leadership in this time of change.

Prior to October, however, the country enjoyed a sense of promise. Many considered the year to be a milestone in the furthering of economic reform and strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law, and looked forward to the parliamentary and local government elections, held weeks before the assassinations. For OSIAF–Armenia as well, the year overall was a time not only of improvements in its strategies and struc-

tures, but also of advances in its programs on mass media, women's issues, and the law.

The first legal clinic was launched at the law department of Yerevan State University, the most influential law school in Armenia. The legal clinic is linked to OSI's Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute and other justice initiatives of the Foundation, including the free legal aid center for vulnerable groups. To bridge programs in law and mass media, the law school developed and introduced a course on freedom of speech and access to information.

Journalism education was the focus of two institutional grant projects initiated in 1999 by the Media Program with the Yerevan Press Club and Internews, Armenia. The projects seek to develop curricula for graduate and undergraduate studies at Yerevan State University, upgrade the professional skills of journalists and media professionals, promote the exchange of information within the country and worldwide, and strengthen Armenian journalism organizations and legislation.

Armenian scientists and educators gained access to information on a global level in 1999 when the country was connected to Electronic Information for Libraries, an electronic database that is a joint initiative of the Open Society Institute and EBSCO Publishing.

To raise awareness about human rights, OSIAF-Armenia supported a project that encouraged communities and legislators to address the lack of legislation on the social and economic rights of vulnerable groups, to bring existing laws into accord with international standards, and to establish a system of monitoring and accountability.

The Internet and National Education programs, redesigned in 1999, increased school outreach and community involvement in education. A network of schools and organizations provided the training and support required to develop the idea of "community schools." The aim is not only to strengthen community participation, but also to improve the quality of the education system by introducing modern methodology and criteria for curricula development.

The Step by Step Program expanded to 23 preschools and 10 primary classrooms, reaching all but two regions of Armenia. The program team also started the network program Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking in Armenia, which will add to both the content and sustainability of both programs as they become independent.

www.soros.org/armenia/html

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$2,045,000
ARTS & CULTURE	178,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	133,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	21,000
EAST EAST	61,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	71,000
EDUCATION	440,000
ETHNIC MINORITIES	18,000
INFORMATION	434,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	89,000
MEDIA	263,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	95,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	63,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	29,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	9,000
ADMINISTRATION	141,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Armenia totaling \$777,000, principally for education programs.

Open Society Institute– Assistance Foundation (Azerbaijan)

“In 1999, the foundation took significant steps to reduce Azerbaijan’s isolation through Internet, education, and information programs. We also continue to support initiatives that decrease the information gap between Baku and the provinces.”

RAUF TALYSHINSKY, BOARD CHAIR

In 1999, the Open Society Institute–Assistance Foundation (Azerbaijan) continued to focus on the decentralization of information, youth empowerment through education, and the development of civil society.

In fostering the free flow of information, the Foundation’s Internet center expanded its activity, providing more than 37,000 hours of training to nearly 4,000 users. OSI–AF and the United States Information Agency (USIA), both of which operate public access Internet training centers, cofunded the development of an academic network in Baku and the provinces. The Baku network now includes Azerbaijan’s major universities and institutes, as well as the national library.

The Foundation is cooperating with USIA to establish an academic Internet consortium by sharing the high cost of international connectivity and providing access to institutions that otherwise could not afford it. A major boost to these efforts came from the NATO Science Program, which awarded a grant in the fall of 1999 to cofund connectivity for the OSI/USIA network.

Two other programs working to reduce Azerbaijan’s information vacuum are the Baku Education Information Center (BEIC) and the Library Program. Partially sponsored by USIA, BEIC provides 1,500 visitors per month with information on scholarship programs, grant competitions, and English language materials. In the

same space, donated by the Baku Music Academy, the Foundation has established an arts information center, which allows Azeri artists and students to learn more about the arts world beyond Azerbaijan. The Library Program has focused on training, automation management, and English. Small grants to several key libraries have laid the framework for a national electronic cataloguing system. Much more training is necessary, but real progress was made in 1999.

Another group of programs focused on education. In its second year in Azerbaijan, the Step by Step Program expanded its activities to 16 kindergartens and five schools and established two training centers. Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking (RWCT), which began in the summer of 1999, quickly established a team of 30 teachers, who in turn will teach the RWCT methods to their colleagues. On the basis of its experience in preschool and elementary education through Step by Step and RWCT, the Foundation was invited to submit a proposal to the World Bank for a two-year technical assistance program for teacher training and curriculum development. At the high school and university level, other education programs focused on debate, history textbook development, curriculum reform, and teacher training.

Civil society development is the third main program area for the Foundation. The main focus in 1999 was on the law: legal education, access to justice, and legal information. Khazar University opened Azerbaijan’s first university law clinic in the fall. A grant to Azerbaijan’s Democracy Development Foundation funded a legal aid center, legal advice for NGOs, and, in cooperation with the Initiative for Social Action and Renewal in Eurasia and many local NGO leaders, a series of NGO information and legal advice bulletins published as inserts in two major Azeri- and Russian-language newspapers.

Open Society Fund– Bosnia and Herzegovina

Due to the small number of NGOs in Azerbaijan, the foundation has worked to encourage the creation and development of NGOs in fields related to the open society mission. In 1999, the Foundation played a role in the creation of a history teachers’ association, AzLA (Azerbaijan Library Development Association), and Junior Achievement Azerbaijan. The Foundation also provided training and small grants to public health and education NGOs. These efforts will continue in 2000, focusing on establishing an academic Internet consortium, a national debate NGO, an Azerbaijan Reading Association, and an early childhood education NGO.

www.osi-az.org

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$3,141,000
ARTS & CULTURE	109,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	67,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	128,000
EAST EAST	44,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	52,000
EDUCATION	1,015,000
INFORMATION	619,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	175,000
MEDIA	100,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	4,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	181,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	111,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	66,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	7,000
ADMINISTRATION	463,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Azerbaijan totaling \$1,067,000, principally for education and civil society programs.

“Independent media supported by the Fund are strengthening open society with their fearless reporting on issues of vital concern to the public.”

HRVOJE BATINIC, MEDIA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Bosnia and Herzegovina entered 1999 with problems dating back to the signing of the Dayton peace accords in 1995. Insufficient economic progress, the slow pace of the return of refugees and displaced persons, the lack of political will to develop democratic processes, and the divided educational system are only some of the hurdles on the road to open society in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In July 1999, at the summit of world leaders in Sarajevo, the international community expressed its commitment to democratic and economic development and the will to create conditions for stability and cooperation in Europe. To make good on this commitment, the international community is putting resources behind the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, which will affect the work not only of the Open Society Fund–Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also of other Soros-supported foundations in the region.

In 1999, the Fund continued its efforts to build the infrastructure of open society through support for NGOs, independent media, education (from preschool to graduate), arts and culture, law and civil society, and publishing.

The foundation allocated the largest part of its budget toward improving the country’s chaotic education system, which is divided along lines of national identity. The Step by Step preschool and primary school programs probably came closest to achieving an almost unified education strategy in the region. Step by Step operated throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in 52

kindergartens, 19 primary schools, and five universities that train teachers.

The foundation's second biggest endeavor was the Media Program, which, in 1999, focused on strengthening the media's influence on democratic processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Program, while remaining open to all projects showing potential, emphasized support for print media because the independent newspapers and magazines practice journalism on a much higher professional level than radio and TV. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, investigative journalism is synonymous with print media, most notably the Sarajevo weeklies *Slobodna Bosna* and *Dani*, and the Banjaluka daily *Nezavisne Novine* and weekly *Reporter*.

The independent media provided a truly autonomous space for the development of public speech and dialogue based on free and available information about important social and political issues. The results of the local elections in April 2000, when the multi-ethnic Social Democratic Party defeated the old nationalist parties in most predominantly Bosniak municipalities, can be credited in part to the increasing influence of the independent media.

Unfortunately, objective, professional journalism is also one of the region's most dangerous professions, as was tragically proved, once again, in October 1999 with the assassination attempt on Zeljko Kopanja, editor-in-chief of the *Nezavisne Novine*. Kopanja survived, but lost both legs.

The most prominent electronic media outlet supported by the foundation is the Media Center in Sarajevo. Active since 1995, it offers training through the BBC School for Electronic Media and the Journalism Workshops on Site program, and the use of electronic research capabilities through the Information-Documetary Center. The Media Center's primary aim is to make sure that young journalists in South Eastern

Europe enter electronic media careers with adequate training and preparation. Some 170 journalists from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina completed training programs during the last four years. Since September 1999, when the BBC School adopted a regional approach, journalists from Serbia and Montenegro have also joined the program. The Center seeks to expand its mission to provide training and access to information not only for local and regional journalists, but also for the representatives of the international organizations dealing with regional media.

www.soros.org.ba

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$6,026,000
ARTS & CULTURE	628,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	79,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	124,000
EAST EAST	124,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	385,000
EDUCATION	1,012,000
INFORMATION	652,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	195,000
MEDIA	1,146,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	56,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	230,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	39,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	83,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	188,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	520,000
ADMINISTRATION	565,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Bosnia & Herzegovina totaling \$948,000, principally for education, youth, and landmines programs.

Open Society Foundation– Sofia (Bulgaria)

“We are facing a profound change in the Foundation’s orientation. OSF–Sofia is developing a proactive position vis-a-vis society in order to promote its values and assure their long-lasting impact.”

GEORGI GENCHEV, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When Bulgaria received an official invitation to start negotiations with the European Union (EU) in 1999, the Open Society Foundation–Sofia established a new policy: to include a European dimension in all programs, yet preserve the flexibility to address other important societal issues.

OSF–Sofia established the European Institute to provide EU expertise to the government and to work on government-commissioned research projects. In keeping with its open society agenda, the Foundation participated in strategic initiatives such as the forward-looking National Plan for Economic Development. It also remained committed to longtime priorities such as education and culture.

In cooperation with the European Union, the Foundation monitored EU-funded projects and, upon invitation, joined the working group for a new EU ACCESS program. The Association of Open Society Clubs also administered the PHARE Partnership program of the European Union.

In collaboration with USAID and ABA-CEELI, the Foundation established the Magistrates Training Center, which received an endorsement from the Ministry of Justice and a funding commitment from the European Commission. Training for penitentiary staff on European and international standards governing the treatment of prisoners was one of several projects for prison reform.

To promote good governance, the Public Administration Staff Training Project and a consortium of higher education institutions trained local government administration representatives in basic managerial skills. To increase citizens’ access to information, several projects helped draft the Access to Information Law and carried out extensive public awareness campaigns.

In the field of education, OSF–Sofia focused on harmonizing Bulgarian higher education with EU standards, quality assurance, and management. A joint project on new information management strategies was launched with the Ministry of Education. A set of indicators was developed for quality management in higher education, a project that was endorsed by the Ministry of Education, the EU, and the World Bank.

Minority issues were another priority area in 1999, with continued support to the 11 Roma Community Centers set up to provide administrative and legal services and mediation with local authorities. Activities included seminars, university scholarships, English language teaching courses, and training for primary school teaching assistants.

Programs of the Media Development Center supported a Romani newspaper and magazine, two Armenian language newspapers, and a Turkish language newspaper and children’s magazine. A weekly broadcast in Turkish and a Romani biweekly television show went on the air in 1999. A network of journalists from the Balkan countries produced *The Balkans* magazine, with a print version in Bulgarian and a website version in English. The Center also promoted internationally accepted standards of journalism and organized training courses in radio management and journalism skills.

In the area of public health, the Foundation funded a feasibility study that served as a basis for new regulations for hospice management, helped set up a Palliative Care Foundation to launch the first hospice in the country, and provided support to HIV-positive patients through counseling and advocacy.

In response to the war in Kosovo, the Foundation provided medicines and consumables for refugees in camps, conducted a needs assessment in a Macedonian hospital, and created a website to inform policymakers, journalists, and political scientists throughout the crisis.

Young people representing 45 youth organizations from countries throughout Europe participated in a European youth week in Sofia. An NGO Resource Center was established early in the year with start-up support from OSF–Sofia to provide training, consultation, and information. The movement toward European Union integration is felt particularly in the NGO community, which will have a larger role and more political leverage in civil society as the democratic process unfolds in Bulgaria.

www.osf.bg

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$9,398,000
ARTS & CULTURE	767,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	1,647,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	(1,000)
EAST EAST	383,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	374,000
EDUCATION	1,842,000
INFORMATION	453,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	763,000
MEDIA	329,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	383,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	408,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	273,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	85,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	260,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	806,000
ADMINISTRATION	626,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Bulgaria totaling \$4,072,000, principally for education, human rights, and ethnic minorities programs.

Open Society Institute–Croatia

“Karmen Basic was a patriot whose far-reaching vision of what Croatia could be—and should be—guided the many successful efforts of OSI–Croatia in moving toward an open society.”

ARYEH NEIER, PRESIDENT, OSI

As 1999 came to a close, the Open Society Institute–Croatia reflected on the many obstacles that blocked the road to democracy during the past decade. Croatia was held back not only by war, but also by an authoritarian regime that further cut off the country from integration with Europe.

Transformation, a complex process, was so narrowly defined that the ultimate goal seemed merely to declare the existence of a state. “We have Croatia!” the leadership exclaimed. Beyond this, however, progress was unclear, and expectations that a free market would be a universal remedy for the country’s developmental problems seemed more like the imaginings of a fairy tale.

The obstacles to building a democratic society encountered by OSI–Croatia over the decade continued to prevail in 1999. Political illiteracy allowed President Tudjman’s party to define what was right or wrong, and only recently has OSI–Croatia noted a more active public interest in the political life of the country. Another obstacle has been the reduced individual sovereignty brought about by increasing unemployment and economic dependence. The culture, effective in provoking traditional national values, became all but entirely dysfunctional in coping with the modernization of Croatian society.

Freedom of choice—political, economic, and cultural—was so restricted by corruption that the country could be best characterized as an arrogantly open dictatorial regime. For many years, public opinion did not count, governmental institutions did not function, and the media was controlled. In this atmosphere, OSI–Croatia endeavored to bring about change through transparency, diversity, and integrity.

A real opportunity for change came with Tudjman’s death in December and the January 2000 parliamentary and presidential elections. OSI–Croatia devoted many of its efforts in 1999 to preparing for the elections, which offered the hope that Croatia might finally embark on the road to democracy and a truly open society.

The foundation supported projects to raise public awareness and to tap the synergistic potential of the NGO networks patiently constructed over the years. A coalition of NGOs burst into action through two foundation-supported projects: VOICE 99 for the parliamentary elections and VOICE 2000 for the presidential elections three weeks later.

VOICE 99, with 140 NGOs participating, focused on raising awareness about the importance of the elections, encouraging young people to vote, and monitoring the actual elections. Voter turnout was the highest in the past 10 years—76 percent—and the election favored truly democratic parties. The real outcome will be measured by the degree of democratization achieved in the future. The media, politicians, and voters recognized the contributions of OSI–Croatia’s programs in awakening public participation and enhancing political literacy.

Acknowledgement for the progress and success achieved by OSI–Croatia must go to Karmen Basic, who served as executive director from 1992 until her death in March 1999. She was instrumental in the VOICE 99 project and many other initiatives over the years. Go ahead, she would say. So we continue.

www.soros.hr/open.htm

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$6,969,000
ARTS & CULTURE	760,000
EAST EAST	184,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	606,000
EDUCATION	966,000
INFORMATION	503,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	261,000
MEDIA	607,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	342,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	110,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	187,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	496,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	1,386,000
ADMINISTRATION	561,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Croatia totaling \$1,175,000, principally for human rights, media, and education programs.

Open Society Fund–Prague (Czech Republic)

“As a number of our more successful and mature programs became independent organizations, the Fund turned its attention to helping the Czech Republic complete the European Union accession process.”

SIMON PANEK, BOARD CHAIR

A number of programs of the Open Society Fund–Prague (OSFP) became independent organizations in 1999 or were absorbed by existing NGOs. The spin-offs included programs that date back to OSFP’s first activities in the Czech Republic almost a decade ago. The reason behind such an important step was that the programs were both successful and mature. Among them were Step by Step, the Education Support Project (known by the Czech acronym PORYV), programs in critical thinking, debate, and the Internet, and the relatively new but very successful Volunteer Development Program. While these programs will continue to be supported by the Fund, they will also be encouraged to seek funding from outside sources to sustain their activities over the long-term.

As part of an ongoing nationwide discussion on education strategy, PORYV invited education professionals and the public to contribute their opinions, reactions, and feedback on education issues. PORYV’s findings will result in a White Book on Czech Education.

OSFP was one of only two Czech foundations to receive grants from the Czech government in the field of education in 1999, a sign of recognition for the significant role of the Fund in education. OSFP was awarded approximately \$800,000. Revenues from this endowment will be distributed in coming years to advance Czech education.

Support for Roma remained an OSFP priority. The prevailing problems continued, although some positive change seems to be taking place in public attitudes toward this minority. Scholarships for higher education were awarded to talented Romani students, mentoring programs were organized, and support was provided to various indigenous Romani organizations. OSFP is one of only two leading Czech NGOs to offer consistent and considerable support to Roma.

Although OSFP continued to participate in many network programs and to support a wide array of community-oriented activities and arts and culture programs, the main activities of the Fund focused on helping the Czech Republic complete the European Union accession process. Both OSFP and the European Commission have identified many of the same problem areas.

To advance judicial reform, for example, OSFP initiated a new law program in 1999 in cooperation with the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute. In collaboration with the American Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice, the Fund will prepare an educational project on human rights protection for judges and state attorneys. In the area of prison reform, OSFP, working with the Ministry of Justice, supported the development of probation and remedial services by offering training for probation officers and assistants. In addition, planning took place for the forthcoming First Step Project to address the issue of Roma-related crime in the Czech Republic. OSFP continued supporting Transparency International, which deals with corruption that threatens to destabilize citizen confidence in democratic principles and institutions.

Open Estonia Foundation

“The period of emotional approaches to the problem of nationalities in Estonia is just about over, and the time is ripe for the initiation of a rational discussion.”

MATI HEIDMETS, BOARD CHAIR—1999

Cooperation with other countries in Central and Eastern Europe also continued to be an important and valued program area during the year, realized through the East East and Cultural Link programs.

www.osf.cz

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$3,581,000
ARTS & CULTURE	467,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	421,000
EAST EAST	124,000
EDUCATION	945,000
INFORMATION	164,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	249,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	2,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	121,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	300,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	50,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	460,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	86,000
ADMINISTRATION	192,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in the Czech Republic totaling \$1,217,000, principally in education, information, and media programs.

The Open Estonia Foundation (OEF) strives to build communities in which citizens are engaged and empowered—and the public, private, and nonprofit sectors are not only accountable but actively lend support to open society. The Foundation is deeply concerned about the inclusion of all citizens in the building of such communities, believing that one measure of an open society is the well-being of all citizens, including those living on its periphery.

A vision of democracy, freedom, inclusiveness, and opportunity for all people living in Estonia has guided OEF's programs over the past decade. Although major projects on integration concluded in 1999, the Foundation will continue to focus on responsible practices in government, public participation, tolerance, and social equality for all national groups.

Estonia's population includes 1.1 million Estonian citizens as well as 400,000 people who have applied for or been granted citizenship of some other country, or who have not yet determined their citizenship. Russians represent the largest single minority. Too many people are not empowered to participate equally in social and state life. In response to this situation, OEF's Integration Program took steps to address the insecurity that non-Estonians feel about their future, and to reduce the anxiety of Estonian citizens about their national identity and culture. It did so by emphasizing the future, working with children and young people, raising confidence in people's ability to integrate successfully, and positioning integration in terms of the country's social and economic development.

The important Ethnic Relations megaprogram, which was launched in 1998 and ended in 1999, included the following projects: Continuous and Individual Language Learning of Russian and Estonian Children in Families, Non-Estonians to Estonian Universities, Monitoring the Integration Process, the State Official in a Multicultural Society, Estonia as a Multicultural Society, and Reflections of National Relations in the Media. Also concluded in 1999 was an advertising campaign promoting diversity—Lots of Great People—that was well-received throughout the country.

As a result of OEF efforts, a professional network of NGOs and individuals is now well-established to increase the potential of society to bring various nationality groups together. In addition, the integration programs of the state have adopted a number of ideas and approaches, such as language learning in families, an outreach program for the supplementary admission of Russian young people to universities, training for workers of the Citizenship and Immigration Service, and the voluntary assignment of teachers to the schools of East Virumaa.

As the integration projects concluded in 1999, OEF focused on a new initiative: volunteerism. Two new programs were launched in East Virumaa, an area populated largely by non-Estonians and characterized by a low level of social participation, limited language skills, and a high level of unemployment.

OEF conducted a large-scale program, Libraries as Centers of Local Life, to help boost community activity and continuing education in small localities suffering from underdevelopment. The communities also welcomed other programs, including one that was designed to integrate street children and another to preempt the use of drugs by young people.

As OEF approaches its 10th anniversary in 2000, it plans to concentrate on the science and art of public policy in order to further improve the policymaking process in Estonia.

www.oef.org.ee

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$4,570,000
ARTS & CULTURE	392,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	642,000
EAST EAST	175,000
EDUCATION	745,000
ETHNIC MINORITIES	153,000
INFORMATION	781,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	229,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	523,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	42,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	442,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	188,000
ADMINISTRATION	258,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Estonia totaling \$572,000, principally in education programs.

bright, enlightening orientation to humanism, education, democracy, and tolerance.

As the Soros Foundation–Kazakhstan approaches its fifth anniversary, it has established a significant role in shaping social policy through its effectiveness and widespread influence in many spheres. In 1999, programs of the Soros Foundation–Kazakhstan aimed to increase access to information, support independent mass media, enhance education and culture, strengthen the institutions of civil society, and help protect vulnerable groups. The Foundation developed flexible initiatives and strategies in response to the current situation in the country.

Presidential and parliamentary elections in 1999 provided an opportunity to shed light on public opinion and electoral processes. The Foundation allocated a grant of \$20,000 to the Almaty Association of Sociologists and Political Scientists (AASPS) for a survey of voters in the parliamentary elections. These “exit poll” questionnaires were administered to 30 percent of the voters in 16 cities. In a widely distributed report, the results of the AASPS research were remarkably different from the official data of the Central Elections Commission. Stormy debates about the lack of transparency and accountability ensued in the media and among the public.

The Foundation awarded grants to 13 newspapers published in Russian and Kazakh languages to strengthen an independent mass media that covers socially important issues such as democratization, civic law, freedom of expression, and the transition to a market economy. The grants support capacity building, the purchase of production and publishing equipment, and measures to increase subscribers and circulation.

Universities benefited from a summer project of the Curriculum Development Center that addressed dem-

ocratic reform and changes in content and teaching methods in the social sciences and humanities. Several projects sought to develop critical thinking skills among students, school teachers, and university instructors through debate, reading and writing, and the Step by Step approach. Seminars for school and university administrators addressed reforms in management and decentralization of the educational system.

People can overcome adverse experiences through solidarity, a well-developed sense of self-respect, and a mature civic self-awareness. The Soros Foundation–Kazakhstan aims to develop solidarity and the skills and attitudes required to create an open society in the future of this country.

www.soros.kz

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$5,882,000
ARTS & CULTURE	483,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	199,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	146,000
EAST EAST	257,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	54,000
EDUCATION	1,585,000
INFORMATION	350,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	532,000
MEDIA	369,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	271,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	385,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	97,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	606,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	2,000
ADMINISTRATION	546,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Kazakhstan totaling \$916,000, principally in education and youth programs.

Kosova Foundation for Open Society

“In Kosovo, we need to help ensure that international efforts are well connected to the needs, aspirations, and talents of Kosovars working for open society.”

GEORGE SOROS, ON HIS VISIT TO PRISTINA, SEPTEMBER 1999

During the bombing of Kosovo, many staff of the Pristina office of the Fund for an Open Society–Yugoslavia fled to neighboring countries or were forced indoors. The office was completely looted. The team in exile in Macedonia continued their work by assisting and funding a variety of initiatives through the Kosovo Refugee Program in Macedonia, operated under the auspices of the Open Society Institute–Macedonia. Prior to the bombing, the Foundation’s support for education and culture was extensive, successful, and probably the most visible part of the Foundation’s work in Kosovo in the difficult years of the 1990s. This effort continued during the crisis with support for initiatives organized by deportees in Macedonia.

The Foundation returned to work in August 1999. The former office was restructured, a Kosovar board was formed, many new initiatives were launched immediately, and the Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) was legally registered as an independent local NGO in December.

KFOS operates in a dramatically changed environment from the work of the Foundation in previous years. While the past was characterized by many difficulties, few international partners, and even some isolation from the rest of the Soros foundations network, the post-conflict environment involves a larger international presence with which the Foundation must engage. During 1999 KFOS created many partnerships. KFOS entered into a unique partnership with the World Bank to create the implementing organization for the Kosovo Community Development Fund, which helps local communities restore damaged infrastructure and community services. Also among KFOS’s first initiatives was the Textbook Emergency Project, for which KFOS helped assemble a consortium of donors and local implementing partners. Another example is the creation of the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with UKJAID and the governments of Austria and Switzerland.

KFOS’s priorities are organized around education and culture, information, and democratic institutions, with strong participation of the network East East Program in all three program areas.

In education, KFOS in 1999 moved from a program that sustained education (and then responded to crisis) toward a program that can contribute to significant substantive improvements in the education system. Following its contribution to the restarting of schooling, KFOS was asked by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo to participate in DESK (Developing the Education System of Kosovo), an initiative that brought together Kosovar educators, international agencies and donors, and NGOs to design a new education system at all levels.

KOSOVO : AMI VITALE



Refugee camp near Tetovo, Macedonia, May 1999





Refugee camp near Skopje, Macedonia, May 1999



Through the East East Program, KFOS organized visits to Slovenia and Romania for eight Kosovar educators to study the process and structure of education reform in these countries. In coordination with other donors, KFOS resumed its school-based educational improvement efforts with the restoration of Step by Step across the preschool sector, including 17 kindergartens.

Damaged or underdeveloped infrastructure—telecommunications, computers, libraries, schools—and long, widespread isolation from developments in technology hindered information-based programmatic activities and even the day-to-day operations of KFOS. The central goal of information programs was to support the promotion and dissemination of information that will help the development of open society in Kosovo. KFOS concentrated on strengthening the publishing sector, helping libraries become information centers in their communities, and promoting the use of the Internet as a resource.

The main accomplishment in 1999 in the field of information was the initiation and support of the Textbook Emergency Project, which mobilized at least nine donors, DM 4.7 million, and nearly 20 local publishers to produce more than 3 million textbooks for all levels of schooling. The network also financed a local Internet service provider through *Koha Ditore*, a leading daily newspaper. KFOS provided a grant in 1999 to the National Library for the collection of data on library losses in Kosovo.

Many of the Foundation's programs sought to help Kosovars build democratic institutions by enabling them to take responsibility for governing Kosovo and for sustaining and strengthening civil society. Efforts focused on the development of independent media, the quality of journalism, the NGO sector, and youth initiatives. KFOS is also creating new programs and strengthening its activities in human rights and interethnic relations, women's issues, local government, and public administration.

NOTE: 1999 expenditures of \$849,000 on behalf of the Kosova Foundation for Open Society were made by OSI-Macedonia.

KOSOVO : BARRON RACHMAN



Attending reburial ceremonies, Krusa, July 1999

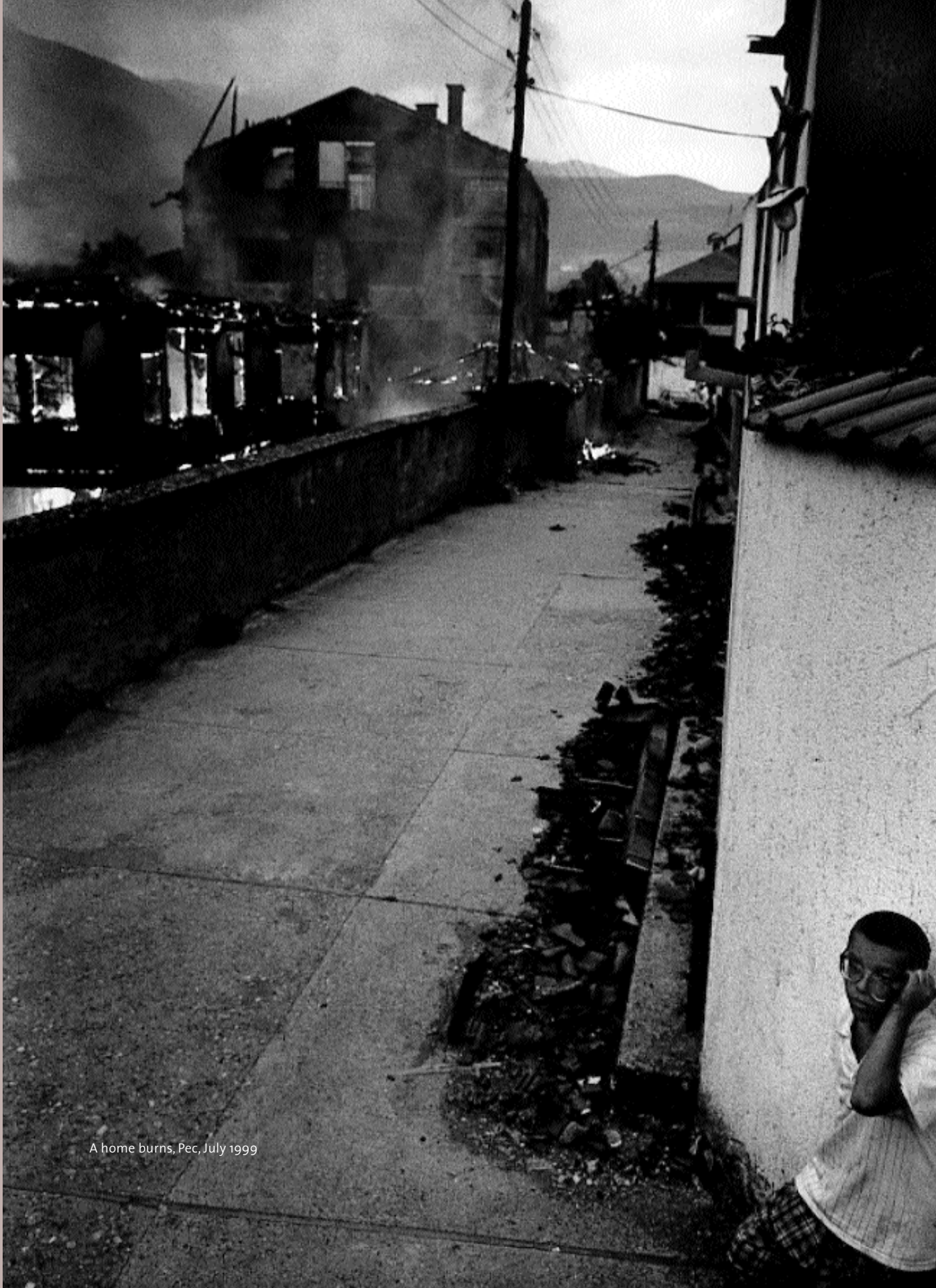




A soldier checks shopping bags, Mitrovica, June 1999



Clearing away the rubble, Studenica, July 1999



A home burns, Pec, July 1999

Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan

“It is hoped that the combined influence of programs supported by the Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan and its partners will offset the current pressures against democracy and ensure the building of an open society for the future.”

ASIYA SASYKBAEVA, BOARD CHAIR

From its beginning in 1993, the Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan had as its mission the creation of conditions necessary for building an open society through the transformation of public institutions and support for initiatives in various spheres of society. Today the Foundation is considered one of the most influential NGOs in the republic. And for many years, Kyrgyzstan seemed to embrace the principles and lessons of democracy. Recently, however, unsolved problems have threatened this progress.

A severe economic crisis, brought about by the lack of a government strategy for the country’s development and by widespread corruption, has resulted in a worsening social situation. The so-called “southern factor” has become more acute, and relations with Uzbekistan have deteriorated. Another bad sign was the pressure placed on the independent media and human rights organizations during preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections.

Despite these setbacks in 1999, the Soros Foundation–Kyrgyzstan continued to strengthen its presence in the areas of legal reform, the provision and expansion of access to information, and the development of local government bodies. Support for education, science, and culture also continued to be among its priorities.

The Transformation of the Humanities Program continued to support reform of the school education system. The Interschool Parliament Project successfully engaged teachers, parents, and students in an effective organization of the educational process in their schools. In legal education, the Foundation advanced the process of reform by introducing the newest teaching methodologies. To promote human rights and constitutional democracy, the Civic Education and Democracy Program supported a number of seminars and produced a variety of materials on educational methodologies to assist school and university teachers, especially teachers working in the area of crime prevention.

In 1999, the Economic Reform Program celebrated the victories of students from Kyrgyzstan at the International Olympiad in economics, held in Moscow. The Program also focused on economics education, holding a competition on modeling economics and management and training workshops for teachers of economics.

The Publishing Program arranged educational seminars for specialists from local publishing houses, enabled them to attend international seminars, and provided consulting services on the use of modern publishing equipment. The Higher Education Support Program organized seminars, summer schools for students and professors, and Soros internships. It also provided educational literature to universities and hosted competitions for university professors for lectures introducing innovative approaches to education.

To overcome acute problems caused by isolation, the Foundation supported local initiatives to strengthen the socio-economic infrastructure of the Osh and Jalal-Abad regions. Planning for joint initiatives by the national

foundations in the region took place in 1999, focusing on the areas of education, culture, and NGOs. The foundations encouraged the cooperation of local administrations and representatives.

The Public Administration Program, in collaboration with the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, continued to develop a governance training system to introduce new methods to personnel of the republic and representatives of local administrations. The Mass Media Program supported seminars, internships, and other educational projects, many in association with other international and mass media organizations. In 1999, the Foundation initiated the creation of specialized libraries with Internet access in faculties of journalism and media centers. A variety of activities were also carried out in the Foundation’s programs for women, for refugees, and in health and medicine.

www.soros.kg

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$5,479,000
ARTS & CULTURE	268,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	234,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	81,000
EAST EAST	80,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	217,000
EDUCATION	1,121,000
ETHNIC MINORITIES	45,000
INFORMATION	598,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	271,000
MEDIA	290,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	211,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	394,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	52,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	545,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	636,000
ADMINISTRATION	436,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Kyrgyzstan totaling \$714,000, principally in education and youth programs.

Soros Foundation–Latvia

“The Foundation initiated a comprehensive prison and police reform program with the aim of reducing the prison population, increasing public safety, and improving victim support services.”

SARMITE ELERTE, BOARD CHAIR

The rule of law continued to be a major focus of the Soros Foundation–Latvia (SFL) in 1999. The Foundation initiated a comprehensive prison and police reform program with the aim of reducing the prison population, increasing public safety, and improving victim support services. The first year of the program was marked by the successful introduction of alternative sentencing mechanisms in seven local jurisdictions. Initial successes have sparked interest among other local governments, judicial officials, prosecutors, police officials, and NGOs.

The program also brought the issue of domestic violence to the public agenda, succeeding in making it a police priority. A two-year program will allow police officers to obtain special training to work with women victimized by domestic violence or trafficking. New educational opportunities in prisons served more than 900 prisoners. Educational activities targeted minors serving out their sentences, and other activities addressed victims’ assistance and alternative sentencing.

The Riga Graduate School of Law opened its doors to students preparing for a master's degree in International Comparative Law. The school is a long-term cooperative project with the Latvian and Swedish governments. In addition, a newly launched legal clinic started classes on housing issues, patients' rights, and privacy issues pertaining to language laws.

Publications of the Foundation in 1999 included five new booklets in the *Know Your Rights* series on employment contracts, the rights of witnesses, and other topics. The Foundation helped publish seven new legal textbooks covering criminal law, protection of industrial property, and contract law. An additional 28 textbooks are in development.

Corruption remains a force that not only undermines the economy, but also compromises belief in the rule of law. To mobilize the public, SFL supported the local chapter of Transparency International, consumer groups, tenants associations, youth groups, and investigative journalists. All are instrumental in keeping pressure on the government to take action against corruption.

In 1999, the Baltic American Partnership Program began its first year of operation. This decade-long investment in civil society pools United States government and OSI resources to support the development of the NGO sector in the Baltics. Program activities in Latvia focused on improving the legislative framework for NGOs and supporting a core of strong advocacy groups, local philanthropic traditions, and community development financing models. Already, an in-depth legislative framework study has generated a set of recommendations for improving access to information, and a group of NGOs is preparing for advocacy work in this area.

As part of its ongoing contribution to ethnic integration, SFL's multiyear program Open Schools continued to provide support to minority-language schools for bilingual education, and to the entire school system for multicultural curricula. The program strives to overcome stereotypes and barriers between schoolchildren through joint summer camps and the publication of a bilingual school newspaper prepared by students from both Latvian and minority-language schools.

To make access to the Internet available to a wider population, SFL entered into a series of partnerships with local governments, libraries, and NGOs to establish Public Internet Access Points across the country. These Internet-connected computer centers are available for use by the general public for little or no cost. It is hoped that the Internet will help reduce polarization along ethnic, social, and urban/rural lines.

www.sfl.lv

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$6,977,000
ARTS & CULTURE	348,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	942,000
EAST EAST	113,000
EDUCATION	1,405,000
ETHNIC MINORITIES	242,000
INFORMATION	813,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	1,296,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	90,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	144,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	30,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	565,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	535,000
ADMINISTRATION	454,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Latvia totaling \$882,000, principally in education and public health programs.

Open Society Fund–Lithuania

“Promoting open society values, the rule of law, and transparent, information-based public policy were the primary goals of the Fund in 1999.”

DIANA VILYTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Open Society Fund–Lithuania (OSFL) took significant steps in two directions in 1999 as part of a transition period. OSFL started new forms of activity, determined by new requirements, political and economical changes, and the needs of the country; and began “spinning off” OSFL’s most effective programs while ensuring that the Fund’s input and investment continues in other areas.

Public policy formation was OSFL’s primary goal in 1999. A Public Policy Development Scheme was created, with the reorientation of the Center for Educational Studies’ activities toward the analysis of educational policy serving as one of the most successful examples. The Center took the initiative in making information available that would increase transparency in education decision-making and raise public awareness and participation in discussions on education. A study entitled “Equal Opportunities for All to Secondary Education in Lithuania” described how gender, regional differences, and financing per student by municipalities influence the number of students entering secondary school and the quality of their performances. The study was widely discussed in society, the educational community, and Parliament.

Making the rule of law part of daily life in Lithuania remained another focus of the Fund. Initial efforts in strengthening legal assistance in Lithuania by establishing three law clinics in 1997 proved to be very successful. The next step was the establishment of the Office of Public Attorneys, in collaboration with the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute (COLPI), the

Lithuanian Ministry of Justice, and the Lithuanian Barristers Association. This is the first institution of its kind not only in Lithuania but also in Central and Eastern Europe. This model project sought to secure a more effective and productive defense of human rights in the criminal process.

Aiming to provide open access to legal information for all citizens, the Fund supported, jointly with COLPI, the publication of books on various legal aspects and, jointly with OSI’s Network Library Program, the creation of information centers, including legal centers, in public libraries. The establishment of an Information and Training Center/Library at Kaunas Interrogation Cell for Minors was the first step in a re-socialization program for convicted teenagers, attempting to give them useful information and experiences and to teach them human values.

At the end of the year, OSFL hosted a conference entitled “Society Against Corruption: Directions for the National Chapter of Transparency International in Lithuania.” The conference provided a stimulus for putting together the efforts of different sectors (NGOs, private, and state) dealing with anticorruption activity. It resulted in the establishment of a Transparency International chapter in Lithuania, which also received support from the EU delegation.

To encourage a restructuring of the police forces, the Fund, jointly with EU’s PHARE program, funded qualifications improvement courses for Lithuanian police officers.

Transformation of effective programs into independent and sustainable NGOs or their integration into similar national institutions was another OSFL priority in 1999. Success in this direction was determined by the involvement of state institutions as partners, the rendering of market services, and cooperation with the EU delegation.

The Foundation for Educational Change, established and funded on a 50/50 basis with the Ministry of Science and Education, presented a new model for educational institutions, operating as a grantmaking body and promoting educational reform. The programs of the Center for School Improvement were in high demand. Lithuanian schools or teachers paid for the courses offered. The Debate Center organized a debate on “It’s useful for Lithuania to become a member of the EU,” which contributed to discussion and debate within society and the media.

www.osf.lt

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$6,721,000
ARTS & CULTURE	702,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	528,000
EAST EAST	177,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	153,000
EDUCATION	1,931,000
INFORMATION	855,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	294,000
MEDIA	85,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	1,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	729,000
ROMA	14,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	57,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	588,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	173,000
ADMINISTRATION	434,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Lithuania totaling \$868,000, principally in education, youth, and information programs.

Open Society Institute–Macedonia

“Responding to the crisis in Kosovo, OSI–Macedonia allocated funds for projects to assist the refugees, in particular children and young people. All Soros network programs mobilized to meet the urgent needs of the people.”

JOVAN DONEV, BOARD PRESIDENT

A flood of refugees from Kosovo created a crisis situation in the Republic of Macedonia to which the Open Society Institute–Macedonia immediately responded. In late March 1999, thousands of refugees fled the repression of the Milosevic regime, followed later by thousands more who had been forcibly transported to the border. NATO bombing intensified the exodus from Kosovo. Ultimately, the number of refugees reached 15 percent of Macedonia’s population. Huge refugee camps emerged near Skopje, Tetovo, and Gostivar. Hundreds of agencies and organizations sent assistance. Tensions soon mounted among Macedonia’s overburdened population of ethnic Macedonians, ethnic Albanians, and Roma.

OSI–Macedonia’s executive board met on March 24 and allocated funds for projects to assist the refugees, in particular children and young people. All Soros network programs in Budapest and New York, including COLPI, Internet, Women, Roma Participation, Child Abuse Prevention, and Media, agreed to take action.

Throughout the year, project officers and directors responded to the crisis while continuing to promote the goals of open society. Projects of the joint program Improving Inter-ethnic Relations, implemented by Macedonian NGOs, received additional financial support from the King Baudoin Foundation. The picture books of the Step by Step program were translated into Albanian,

and 100,000 copies were printed with matching funds from UNICEF. In addition, 300 Roma refugee children were included in Step by Step kindergartens. In 18 primary schools, free snacks were distributed to 17,500 refugee children. Children's centers opened in Tetovo and Gostivar with a grant from Save the Children. With financial support from the Swiss Bureau of Cooperation, OSI-Macedonia expanded its Junior Achievement Program, held summer camps, reconstructed playgrounds, and offered training in psychosocial counseling. Four youth centers were established with grants from the Italian CESVI and Charles Mott Foundation.

Theater artists from Macedonia and Kosovo started a project that allowed refugee children to use theater techniques to help overcome trauma. Workshops were organized with support from UNICEF, Intercult-Stockholm, Gustav Stresemann Institut-Bonn, Arena Theatre-Bratislava, and the French-German Youth Office. In addition, actors from numerous groups performed for children in refugee camps and towns.

A number of activities aimed to improve communication. Private Albanian and Roma electronic and printed media received grants in order to publish and broadcast programs for refugees. Daily newspapers in Albanian and Macedonian were distributed free of charge in the camps. An Internet bulletin board for and about refugees was produced. Computers and additional staff were provided to 10 units of local self-government that organized registration and distribution of humanitarian aid for the refugees.

OSI-Macedonia also established communication and coordination among Roma groups and international governmental and nongovernmental organizations, assisted Roma NGOs engaged in distributing humanitarian aid to families hosting refugees, and organized a summer camp for Roma refugees with the British Department for International Development.

Other kinds of support ranged from legal advice to stress management. The Civil Society Resource Center-Skopje provided free legal assistance for the refugees. Two projects on psychosocial assistance and support of

children and mothers in the refugee camps received support. The SOS Center for Mental Crisis opened in Tetovo, distributing 1,850 women's hygienic packages over three months. A training session to help Macedonian police manage their own stress while working with refugees was organized in cooperation with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees.

OSI-Macedonia hosted colleagues from the Fund for an Open Society-Yugoslavia office in Pristina, most of whom arrived as refugees. They conducted projects within the framework of the Kosovo Refugee Program in Macedonia, a special initiative introduced in May. In October, staff from Pristina returned to Kosovo, where the Kosova Foundation for Open Society was established. OSI-Macedonia carried out financial and logistic operations for the new foundation until the end of 1999.

www.soros.org.mk

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$7,907,000
ARTS & CULTURE	515,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	255,000
EAST EAST	206,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	318,000
EDUCATION	2,081,000
INFORMATION	657,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	61,000
MEDIA	511,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	37,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	404,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	502,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	196,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	546,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	1,035,000
ADMINISTRATION	583,000

NOTE: OSI-Macedonia spent \$849,000 on behalf of the Kosova Foundation for Open Society. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Macedonia totaling \$771,000, principally in media and education.

Soros Foundation–Moldova

”We believe that the spin-off programs which set sail in 1999 and earlier will prove their viability while responding to the needs of the democratic development of the society.”

ARCADIE BARBAROSIE, BOARD CHAIR

The Soros Foundation–Moldova transformed a number of its successful programs into independent institutions in 1999, including the Dynamic Network Technology (DNT) Association, the Pro Didactica Educational Center, the Moldovan Microfinance Alliance, the Pre-university Debate League, the Educational Advising Center, the MedNet National Center of Medical Information, the Information and Documentation Center for Women, the Youth Development Center, and the Invisible College Moldova. The Foundation will provide institutional support on a decreasing basis over several years to help ensure the sustainability of these autonomous entities and to encourage them to seek additional sources of funding.

Particularly noteworthy is the Pro Didactica Educational Center, a new nongovernmental institution founded by the Soros Foundation–Moldova and the Open World House. Pro Didactica promotes learning-centered approaches to curriculum development, evaluation, and assessment, classroom teaching, teacher training, educational management, institutional development, and capacity building at the regional level. Building a new organizational culture was a challenge because Pro Didactica merged the existing English Language School and the School Improvement Program.

The Pro Didactica Educational Center received a license from the Ministry of Education in its first year, an important recognition of the high quality of its training. This step in the accreditation process contributed to the popularity of English as a Second Language (ESL) courses as well as the professional development courses for teachers and school managers. In 1999, 178 teachers and school managers completed training programs; 39 local trainers are currently completing the teacher training program. After training is completed, certificates are awarded that can be used in qualification and promotion. Upon request from the Ministry of Education, the Center also offered a training course in management to the directors and vice directors of the newly formed County Departments for Education, Youth, and Sports. This meeting with educational decision-makers from the regional level was an opportunity for the Center to start building partnerships that may be important in the future.

The comments of participants in the training programs suggest that Pro Didactica is meeting an important education need:

”For me, the training courses at Pro Didactica meant an essential change in terms of self-understanding, self-evaluation, and personal attitudes.”

”At the beginning of the training, I was very confident of my knowledge. Now I know how many more managerial skills I need.”

Also in 1999, Pro Didactica was the main facilitator of the curriculum development process at the high school

Mongolian Foundation for Open Society

“Although Mongolia has taken great strides in becoming a more open society, the frustrating inefficiency of governance and the country’s economic difficulties highlight the need for increasing civic education, strengthening the legal system, and continuing to expand opportunities for citizens to share information and experiences with their counterparts around the world.”

L. SUMATI, BOARD CHAIR

level, in accordance with the Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Education. All high schools in the country received curricular materials that were developed through a series of training workshops for curriculum developers and also through evaluation activities. This endeavor complemented educational programs at the primary and elementary school levels that have been implemented with the support of the World Bank.

In this and other program areas, the Soros Foundation–Moldova continued to foster critical thinking free from any of the old dogmas, believing that the development of a viable civil society is necessary for the irreversible democratic transformation of Moldova.

www.soros.md

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$5,299,000
ARTS & CULTURE	283,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	152,000
EAST EAST	114,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	313,000
EDUCATION	831,000
INFORMATION	773,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	348,000
MEDIA	254,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	193,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	449,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	119,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	379,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	725,000
ADMINISTRATION	366,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Moldova totaling \$630,000, principally in education programs.

A decade of reform in Mongolia can be seen in the appearance of new court rulings and public awareness that guarantee the equality of all before the law; it is also evident in the disappearance of government-run newspapers. In 1999, the Mongolian Foundation for Open Society (MFOS) continued to support reforms in education, access to information technology, enhancement of civil society, as well as initiatives in media, publishing, and arts and culture.

School 2001, the nationwide school improvement project launched in 1998, enabled teachers and school managers from 40 secondary schools and teacher training colleges to master new skills in management, curriculum development, interactive teaching strategies, and student assessment methods. Partner schools have become centers of innovation and in-service training. MFOS provided grants to 120 partner schools to support the development of educational materials, the sharing of experiences, and the dissemination of information. With Foundation support, the Ministry of Education developed and published a series of English language textbooks for secondary schools.

The first National Information and Communication Technology Summit was held in June 1999, organized by the Foundation with the Mongolian government, the United Nations Development Program, and Mongolian organizations and companies. The event promoted the ICT Blueprint, a long-term strategy for the development of information and communication technology in the country.

Community Information Centers connected people in three remote provinces (Dornod, Umnugovi, and Bayanhongor Aimag) to the Internet. They now have access to Electronic Information for Libraries, an electronic database of more than 3,000 journals, newspapers, and news wires, as well as 1,300 pamphlets and reference books, through a joint initiative of the Open Society Institute and EBSCO Publishing.

MFOS purchased on a competitive basis more than 80 titles from Mongolian publishers and donated the books to public, university, and college libraries. The National Book Fair, supported by the Publishing Program, stimulated discussion of a new law on publishing and a policy on school textbook development.

The Civil Society Programs focused on legal reforms in 1999. The Mongolian Legal Resource Center, established in September, provided legal literature for students of 14 law schools in the country. A legal clinic opened at the Law School of the National University, providing students with practical experience and providing vulnerable groups with access to legal services.

The first public FM radio stations started broadcasting in two provincial capitals, creating a network of such stations in the northern part of the country. The Foundation's Media Program anticipates that these small stations may inspire a national nonprofit public broadcasting corporation in the future.

MFOS was one of a few sources of assistance to the arts in 1999, a sign of the country's economic difficulties. In June, artists from 17 nations staged nine different contemporary art events in Ulaanbaatar and the countryside, attracting an audience of 7,000 people. The Foundation provided grants to 39 art institutions and project teams, and 44 grants to individuals for the creation of innovative art productions and for participation in international and domestic training workshops and events.

For the first time, the Foundation became involved in economic development and cooperation with the launch of a training program in collaboration with German Technical Assistance and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany.

www.soros.org.mn

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$3,864,000
ARTS & CULTURE	327,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	165,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	2,000
EAST EAST	56,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	54,000
EDUCATION	1,191,000
INFORMATION	712,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	136,000
MEDIA	198,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	119,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	280,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	106,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	219,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	22,000
ADMINISTRATION	277,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Mongolia totaling \$858,000, principally in education programs.

Open Society Institute–Montenegro

“In an atmosphere of general apathy and uncertainty, the foundation supported the efforts of numerous institutions and individuals in Montenegro to keep up relations with the international community, to re-establish constructive dialogue, and to prepare conditions for further integration.”

MIRJANA POPOVIC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After six years of existence and work as part of the Fund for an Open Society–Yugoslavia, the branch office in Montenegro became an independent foundation in 1999. The move, authorized by George Soros, indicates the importance the Soros foundations network places on increasing support for efforts to promote open society principles and practices in the Stability Pact countries of South Eastern Europe.

As a small foundation in a territory of only 650,000 inhabitants, the Open Society Institute–Montenegro emphasizes strong regional cooperation in dealing with transitional issues and a constant willingness to collaborate strategically with Soros national foundations and network programs, as well as other international donors.

OSI–Montenegro, both as a foundation and, earlier in the year, as a branch office, offered financial and logistic support to programs for keeping the peace, developing international relations, maintaining freedom of the press, and fostering civil solidarity during very difficult circumstances in 1999.

In an atmosphere of general apathy and uncertainty, when means of communication between the international community and Yugoslavia were suspended, the foundation supported the efforts of numerous institutions and individuals in Montenegro to keep up relations with the international community, to re-establish constructive dialogue, and to prepare conditions for further integration. OSI–Montenegro, in cooperation with the International Festival of the Alternative Theater from Podgorica, organized an international Internet conference entitled “Debalkanization of the Balkans.”

In cooperation with Open Clubs and local communities, OSI–Montenegro showed its support for more than 3,000 refugee children from Kosovo attending primary school in the Albanian language in Montenegro.

Throughout 1999, OSI–Montenegro gave significant support to independent media in Montenegro, both electronic and print. This was seen as the best way of helping to keep the peace and safeguard democratic values. Due to the huge number of refugees coming from Kosovo to Montenegro, the foundation offered special support to Albanian-language media.

By the end of 1999, OSI–Montenegro moved to create a Montenegrin Media Institute in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Danish Journalism School), UNESCO, the U.S. Agency for International Development, AIREX, Norwegian Peoples Aid, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, as well as representatives of both private and state media. The Secretariat of Information of the government of the Republic of Montenegro supported the establishment of the Institute.

OSI–Montenegro and the Budapest office of the International Center for Not-for-profit Law helped in developing the first Law on NGOs, passed by Parliament in the middle of the year. As a follow-up to this legislation,

the foundation established the Center for Development of NGOs, which renders legal support for NGO registration, offers management support, and provides information and documentation services.

Undoubtedly the biggest strategic enterprise that OSI-Montenegro undertook was educational reform. In order to carry out educational reform as its long-term strategic priority, the foundation decided to take a gradual approach, emphasizing thoroughness and realism vis-a-vis the state and desirable changes, with the basic aim of making outcomes measurable and not susceptible to regression. Education is a key to establishing peace, stability, and democracy in South Eastern Europe. Systematic changes in this area are a way to reinforce democratic reforms and their integration into society, since the educational system is not only their promoter, but their primary creator.

OSI-Montenegro supported programs aimed at building the professional and managerial capacities of the Ministry of Education, as well as university and civil-education initiatives aimed at transforming education from the inside.

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$245,000
ARTS & CULTURE	21,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	11,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	4,000
EAST EAST	12,000
EDUCATION	31,000
INFORMATION	18,000
MEDIA	9,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	28,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	8,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	3,000
OTHER	48,000
ADMINISTRATION	52,000

Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland)

“Our major objective is to help independent organizations that have new ideas, well-prepared projects, and the will to implement them. We try to reinforce the attitude of civic responsibility and to foster the development of ‘social capital’—the capacity to act together in order to realize a common good. Both are necessary preconditions of an open civil society.”

ALEKSANDER SMOLAR, BOARD CHAIR

The Stefan Batory Foundation supports the development of a democratic, open society in Poland by fostering civic attitudes and initiatives, increasing cooperation among nations, advancing educational development, and supporting cultural activities. The Foundation devotes considerable attention to local initiatives while it also endeavors to establish partnerships among the state, business, and nongovernmental sectors, believing that such coalitions can be more effective in solving social problems at the local level. In celebrating its 10th anniversary in 1998, the Foundation reassessed its priorities and direction, and stepped forward in 1999 with a renewed commitment to quality and effective programming.

To support NGOs, the Foundation held a competition and awarded grants to programs that promoted cooperation and the common interests of all members of the community. As an investment in the sustainable development of the NGO sector, the Foundation continued its support for the Community Foundations Development Project, carried out in cooperation with the Academy for Philanthropy Development in Poland. In a competition cosponsored by the Bankers Trust Company of

New York, the annual NGO Prize was awarded to the Foundation for Natural Rehabilitation of Disabled People, located in Torun.

The Foundation organized a series of courses to modernize the skills and knowledge of teachers, particularly those from underdeveloped, rural areas. At the university level, the Academic Program offered assistance to institutes introducing modern teaching methods and management approaches. The Scholarship Program was significantly reduced and reformed.

The Foundation reconsidered its objectives in the Cultural Program and decided to increase support for events organized for the benefit of citizens of small towns and villages. The Stefan Batory Foundation was one of only a few Polish institutions to provide grants for local cultural events, awarding 200 in 1999. Through the Cultural Link network program, nearly 1,500 artists participated in cultural events in Poland and more than 250 Polish artists took part in events in other Central and Eastern European countries.

One of the most important events in 1999 was an international conference entitled “Balkan Wars 1991–1999: Reasons and Consequences,” which was held in July and cofunded by the network East East Program, Freedom House, and the C.S. Mott Foundation. The event, shortly after the war in Kosovo, was one of the first international forums in which participants from all sides of the conflict could exchange opinions and ideas about the future of the Balkans. Participants included Ivan Zvonimir Cicak, Rusmir Mahmutcehajic, Fatos Lubonja, Shklezen Maliqi, Andrannik Migranian, Ivan Krastev, Jacques Rupnik, Pierre Hasner, Adam Michnik, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and Bronislaw Geremek. Discussion focused on the reasons behind Yugoslavia’s breakup, the future shape of the Balkan countries, the role of the international community in the Balkans, and the role of NATO in global and regional conflicts. For many participants, March 24, the day NATO intervened in Kosovo, seemed to mark the start of a new era in the Balkan region.

www.batory.org.pl

STEFAN BATORY FOUNDATION 1999 EXPENDITURES	\$11,094,000
ARTS & CULTURE	889,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	2,153,000
EAST EAST	758,000
EDUCATION	1,179,000
INFORMATION	590,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	302,000
MEDIA	64,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	262,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	581,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	117,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	398,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	735,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	1,888,000
ADMINISTRATION	1,178,000

NOTE: Expenditures also include construction of a new building to house the Foundation. Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Poland totaling \$2,078,000, principally in human rights, legal reform, and education.

Open Society Foundation–Romania

“The objective of the new Education 2000+ project is to develop good practices and innovation in education. In 2000 it will become an independent member of the Soros Open Network in Romania.”

RENATE WEBER, BOARD CHAIR

The Open Society Foundation–Romania introduced a flexible new organizational structure in 1999 known as the Soros Open Network (SON) to oversee the activities of 11 member organizations within the country. OSF–Romania will act as the pivotal resource center for the network. The independent member organizations include the Foundation’s branch offices in Bucharest, Cluj, Iasi, and Timisoara. These new entities will focus their work on education, health policies and services, law reform, economic development through rural micro-lending, ethnic minorities, community safety and mediation, rural assistance, regional cooperation, training and consultancy, and arts and culture.

The Romanian Education Development Project, known as Education 2000+, was a major undertaking in 1999, with a preparatory phase from January through August and an operational phase from September through December. The Project is implemented under an agreement with the Romanian Ministry of National Education, aimed at building reform models for the Romanian educational system. Focused on the local implementation of education reform, Education 2000+ seeks to create a model that connects “top down” reform with “bottom up” efforts and change processes. Ultimately, the aim is to create efficient and self-sustainable reform models that can be replicated nationwide.

After selecting eight counties (Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Cluj, Timis, Sibiu, Hunedoara, and Constanta), the Project, in its preparatory phase, established contacts, obtained formal commitments from key education institutions, appointed local task forces, and provided training to support school restructuring. Eight county working groups were enabled to design local educational strategies. Teachers received school-based training in project management, team building, school development, and the management of change.

Once the project infrastructure was in place, the operational phase activated the relationship between the pilot schools (67 in the eight counties) and key educational institutions (four to five in each county). At the county level, key institutions teamed up with pilot schools in implementing local strategies and plans developed during the preparatory phase. Some of the selected schools became resource and magnet schools, serving as a source of expertise on school improvement and offering in-service teacher training on innovative methods and educational approaches.

Education 2000+ builds on OSF–Romania’s previous successful involvement in strengthening educational reform in the country. The Foundation has supported school improvement mechanisms; institutional capacity-building techniques; methods for creating networks of schools based on areas of interest and common needs; school-based teacher training; efforts to raise the professionalism of teachers; and the establishment of formal networks among schools, parents, and communities. During its operational phase, Education 2000+ designed the framework for the “Second Chance” program for older Romani drop-outs, focusing on disadvantaged urban and remote rural areas. The program also plans to support Romani teachers’ associations to increase the participation of Roma communities in the educational process.

In the year 2000, efforts to replicate new reform models for education will be coordinated by the Center Education 2000+, a new member of the Soros Open Network in Romania established to work in the field of education. In the future, the Center intends to become an institution that can offer technical assistance and consultancy for implementing educational change in Romania and other countries in South Eastern Europe.

www.osf.ro

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$17,626,000
ARTS & CULTURE	570,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	62,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	374,000
EAST EAST	227,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	303,000
EDUCATION	2,558,000
INFORMATION	1,804,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	1,966,000
MEDIA	144,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	4,009,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	1,945,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	743,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	169,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	743,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	188,000
ADMINISTRATION	1,821,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Romania totaling \$942,000, principally in education, human rights, youth, and public administration.

Open Society Institute–Russia

“OSI–Russia’s Pushkin Library Project, which received support and funding in numerous new areas in 1999, aims to support Russian culture and stimulate the development of libraries and the publication of books.”

EKATERINA GENIEVA, BOARD CHAIR

Since its establishment in 1995, the Open Society Institute–Russia has offered a wide array of programs to facilitate the country’s political, economic, and social development. In 1999, OSI–Russia continued to support and expand many of these activities, particularly in the areas of education, culture, public health, law, business, and economics.

Higher education was a major focus of OSI–Russia’s Development of Education in Russia Megaproject. The project pairs faculty at provincial universities with their counterparts at universities in Moscow and St. Petersburg. These partnerships allow for a greater sharing of academic resources that are concentrated in major cities and also cultivate cooperation and research between faculty in provincial universities and their colleagues in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The Pushkin Library: Books for Russian Libraries project continued to support libraries throughout Russia in 1999. The project, which began in March 1998, will eventually provide 3,500 libraries with twice-yearly supplements to their collections. As of 1999, Russian publishing houses had contributed 300,000 free books to libraries in orphanages, prisons, military units, frontier outposts, and selected hospitals. By the end of the year, the project had established 91 computer-equipped regional centers within university libraries to coordinate the book distribution.

RUSSIA : JASON ESKENAZI



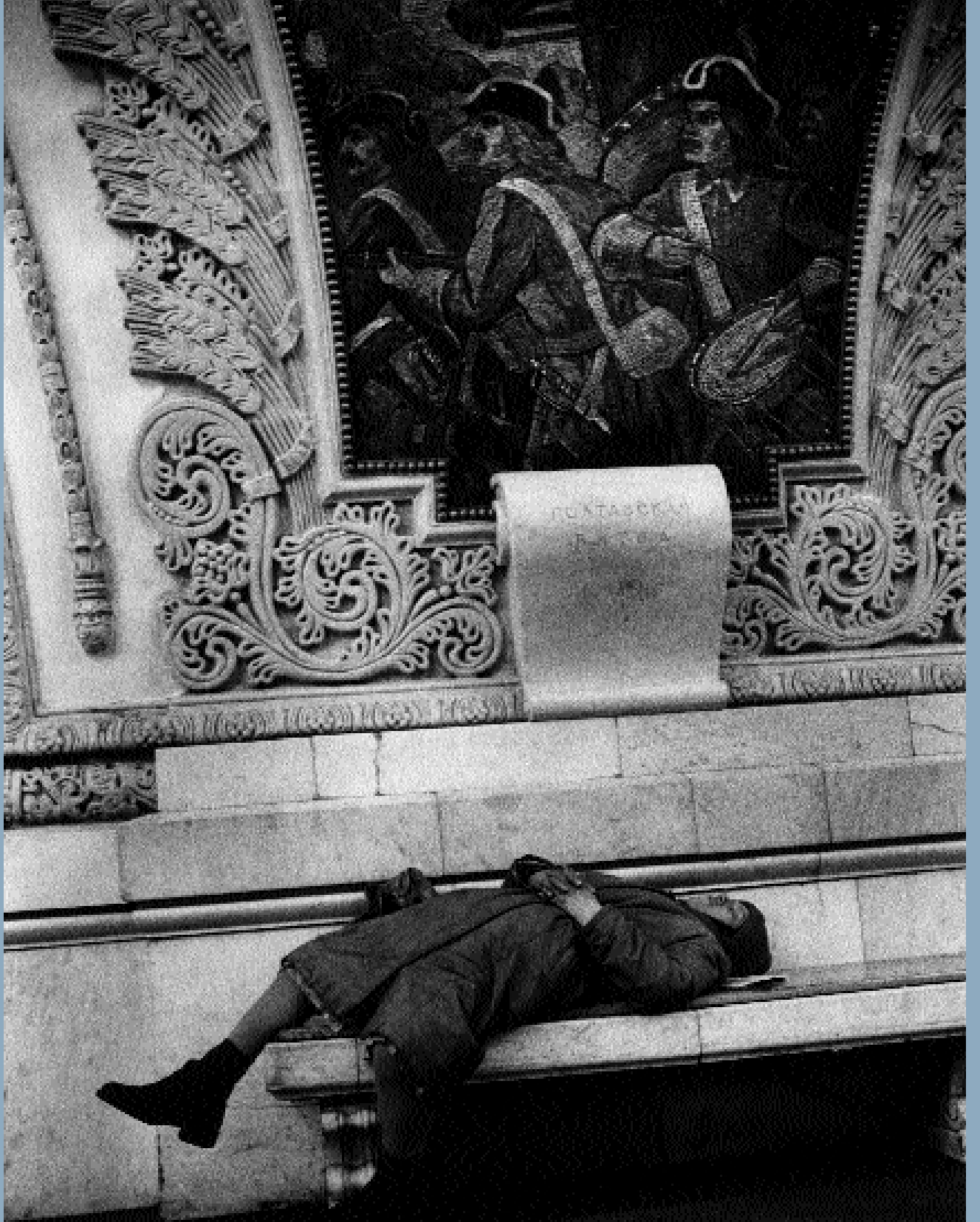
Training at the academy for young marines, Astrakhan





Harvest time, Mariel Republic





Moscow metro station



Practicing for a concert, Astrakhan

In addition to the Pushkin project, OSI–Russia’s Publishing Program continued to fund the translation of hundreds of works of foreign literature and the social sciences into Russian; it had supported the publication of 138 books by the end of the year.

In 1999, OSI–Russia culminated its university Internet program, which helped construct full-service Internet centers in 33 major national universities. In October, George Soros took part in the opening ceremonies at the final University Internet Center in Kaliningrad to commemorate the project’s fulfillment. The centers will be able to provide an estimated 1 million Russian users with free access to the Internet’s resources.

The Russian media was also a priority in OSI–Russia’s efforts to strengthen the third sector of Russian society in 1999. The foundation provided grants to a diverse group of publications and programs, including children’s periodicals, publications targeting socially marginalized populations, regional newspapers, radio stations, television programs, and independent media outlets.

Funding cultural development projects continued to be an important aspect of OSI–Russia activity as well. In 1999, foundation programs provided over \$3 million for projects like the Krasnoyarsk Museum Biennial, which brought together 70 exhibits from various museums; an international forum on the promotion of cultural tourism in central Russia; and events held on the Solovki islands in memory of victims of Stalinist repression. These programs helped stimulate partnerships between cultural establishments, fostered cooperation among local authorities and communities on issues of cultural significance, and encouraged cultural organizations to get involved in tourism. The foundation also provided support to projects establishing museum resource centers and assisting museums in staging joint exhibitions and performances.

In the area of public health, OSI–Russia launched a joint program with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Health in 1999 directed at two of the most problematic health issues in Russia today: drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV. The program seeks to encour-

INTERNATIONAL SOROS SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (ISSEP)

Initiated in 1994, ISSEP supports excellence in science education in Russia, Georgia, and Ukraine by providing support to educators and students and by supplying educational institutions with equipment and materials necessary for the advancement of science education.

ISSEP’s grant programs supported more than 4,800 professors, associate professors, teachers, and graduate and undergraduate students in 1999. Professors, assistant professors, and teachers were selected based on information collected from surveys given to their students. ISSEP also supported conferences, Soros academic Olympiads, and publications throughout the year.

ISSEP’s total 1999 expenditures were \$8,941,000. ISSEP also received nearly \$6 million from the Russian government, \$500,000 from the government of the Republic of Georgia, and more than \$1 million from the Ukrainian government.

age pharmacological innovation to combat drug-resistant tuberculosis and to introduce new methods of HIV prevention among at-risk populations. This effort supplemented OSI–Russia’s needle exchange and prophylactic distribution initiatives, which provide vulnerable populations with protection against infection.

The foundation also promoted legal reform in 1999 by supporting legal education clinics for law practitioners and students that raised public and professional legal awareness, helped strengthen legal culture in Russian society, and increased people’s access to legal counsel and defense of their rights. Similarly, the Economic and Business Development Program conducted educational efforts through its management retraining program and supported small enterprises through its business incubator program.

www.osi.ru

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$61,899,000
ARTS & CULTURE	6,345,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	1,639,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	625,000
EAST EAST	398,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	3,575,000
EDUCATION	13,449,000
INFORMATION	19,986,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	3,038,000
MEDIA	2,064,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	399,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	2,550,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	516,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	470,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	246,000
ADMINISTRATION	6,599,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Russia totaling \$8,340,000, principally in education, media, and information programs.

Open Society Foundation–Bratislava (Slovakia)

“You finally have democratic government in Slovakia. A government is democratic when it is able to listen to its people. I think it is very important that people communicate with their government.”

GEORGE SOROS, IN SLOVAKIA, AUGUST 1999

Elections ushered in a new democratic government in 1998 and opened up new opportunities for social participation and the work of the Open Society Foundation–Bratislava in 1999. New programs emerged while others spun off into independent organizations. The Foundation helped create new channels for people to communicate with their government through NGOs and state institutions. Due to changes in strategy brought about by the elections, OSF–Bratislava closed projects in the areas of environment, health, and the Internet.

The Environment Program ran for five years and provided grants to almost 100 projects devoted to seeking solutions to environmental problems through cooperation among citizens’ groups, communities, and NGOs. The Healthy Lifestyle Program concluded after seven years, during which time it organized some 500 courses for 13,000 participants from all parts of the country. Thirty experts from the program moved into staff positions for education at health institutions. The Foundation discontinued funding for a three-year-old program that financed Internet connections in 150 secondary schools and hosted more than 70 workshops. The government-supported INFOVEK had managed the program’s activities while the Foundation had focused on information exchange between Slovak schools and those in other countries.

To contribute to the development of open society in Slovakia, OSF–Bratislava started innovative programs on local government, the police, and the law. A new program to promote legislative reform, organized in cooperation with the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, emphasized human rights education, judicial and prison reform, the police, and the legal standards of the European Union. To combat corruption and strengthen the legal system, a law clinic project was created in cooperation with Comenius University. To promote decentralization and reform, the Foundation established a program in public administration with the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative in September, and began negotiations with potential partners and donors. The program will also encourage cooperation between local governments and citizens of local communities.

OSF–Bratislava continued its support for Roma in 1999, and shared its seven years of experience in Roma programming with government representatives and private donors during meetings to discuss Slovak and European Union strategies for this ethnic minority.

The Foundation helped implement a project to reform graduation examinations, in collaboration with the government’s Public Institute of Pedagogy and the British Council. The Foundation also funded English language education programs, a requalification course for English teachers, the creation of centers for independent learning and specialized innovative studies, as well as Internet and multimedia programs for foreign language teachers.

To support small businesses, OSF–Bratislava participated in the creation of a nonprofit legal association to develop microlending programs in Slovakia. The Foundation also promoted corporate philanthropy among business leaders.

Partnerships strengthened programs in 1999. A major importer and distributor of foreign language literature, Slovak Venture, Ltd., supported OSF–Bratislava’s programs by providing significant discounts to students in English language summer schools and an annual scholarship competition. The Ericsson Company supported NGO access to the Internet, inviting the Foundation to participate in the organization of an international contest and financing other activities of the Internet Program for NGOs. CKM 2000 Travel, a valued partner of the Foundation, provided awards in the annual English essay writing contest and financing for a meeting on a scholarship project.

The year opened up new possibilities for more proactive behavior by OSF–Bratislava in creating a constructive dialogue with the government, the business sector, and the citizens of the Slovak Republic.

www.osf.sk

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$4,786,000
ARTS & CULTURE	531,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	256,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	80,000
EAST EAST	97,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	126,000
EDUCATION	914,000
INFORMATION	702,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	112,000
MEDIA	111,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	43,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	193,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	470,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	50,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	535,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	296,000
ADMINISTRATION	270,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Slovakia totaling \$1,248,000, principally in education, youth, and economic reform programs.

Open Society Institute–Slovenia

“In 1999, the foundation concentrated on meeting the challenges of building open society through participation in the European Union’s accession process and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.”

RASTKO MOCNIK, BOARD CHAIR

Besides its ongoing support for cultural, media, and civil society projects, the Open Society Institute–Slovenia in 1999 concentrated on efforts in two areas that encapsulate the current geopolitical situation of the country. Slovenia finds itself in the challenging position of being both an accession country to the European Union and a part of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. OSI–Slovenia strengthened its cooperation with South Eastern Europe, which has been one of its most important activities in previous years, and offered different political and social groups the benefit of its knowledge in promoting regional exchanges and the sharing of positive experiences across borders.

In July, OSI–Slovenia, in cooperation with Slovene philanthropies and with the assistance of the Slovene Ministry of Education, held a workshop entitled “Education in Post-Conflict Countries of South Eastern Europe.” Government administrators came together with local government functionaries, teachers, school directors, and NGO activists from the crisis-affected countries.

The premise of the workshop was that people and institutions in different corners of the crisis often do not know what is happening elsewhere and are hardly able to exchange their experiences, views, and practices. The workshop provided a forum for discussion and a stimulus for future cooperation on various levels.

The workshop was well-timed and proved immensely productive and helpful to participants. It also showed that the complex experiences in Slovenia with refugee education and, more generally, with educational reform

can be productively transferred to institutions and people in other parts of the region facing similar situations. This transfer of knowledge applies to all levels of the system within government, educational structures, and the NGO sector. Institutions and individuals from Slovenia displayed a sound sense of critical judgment in presenting their experiences, and participants from other countries showed a similar ability to critically assess and learn from these experiences.

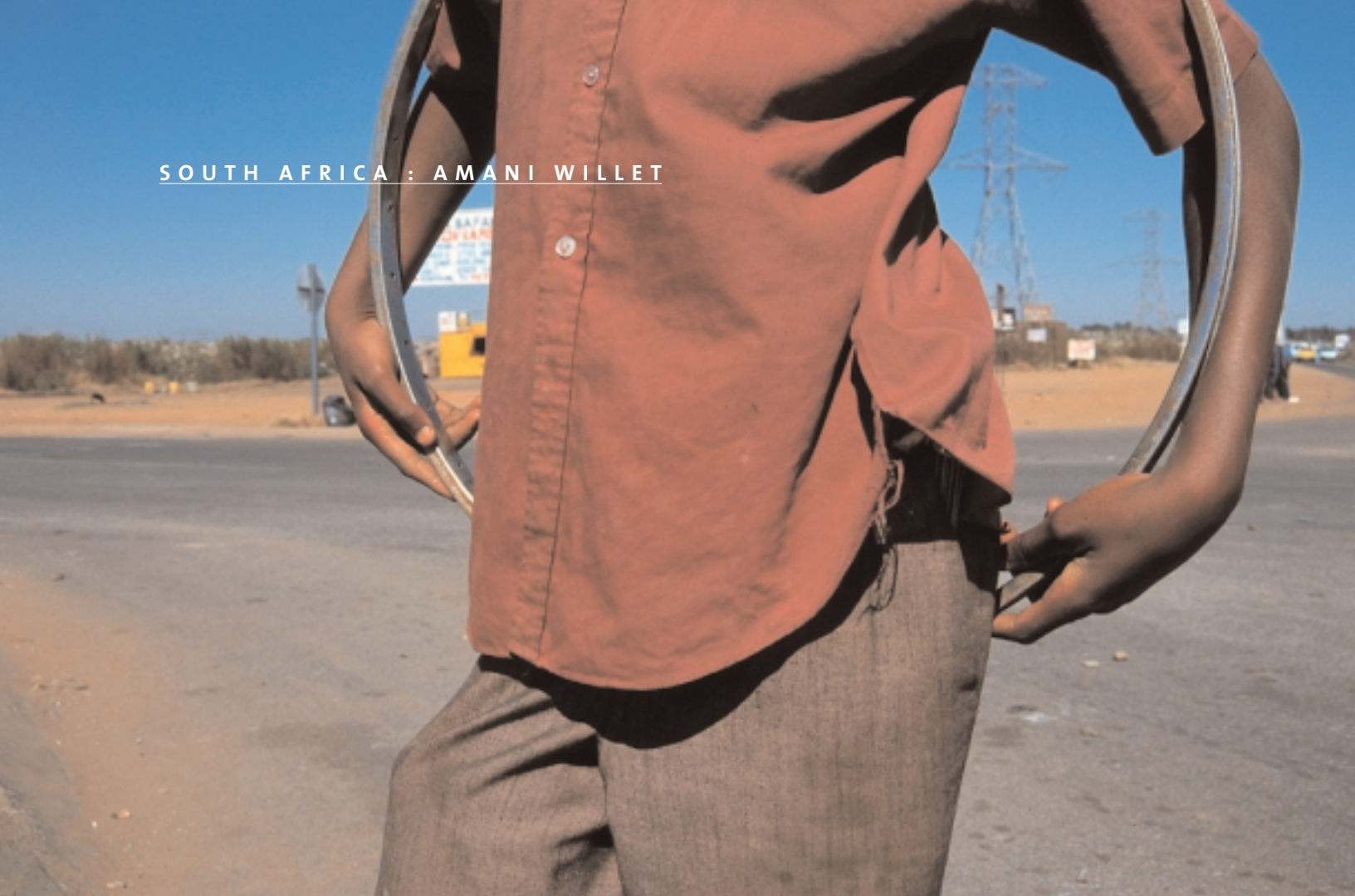
Workshop participants also eagerly embraced prospects for future cooperation. The first follow-up was a visit to Slovenia by a Kosovo delegation of local government officials, school directors, teachers, and education specialists in January 2000. The delegation, hosted by the Slovene Ministry of Education, visited schools and talked to administrators, school directors, teachers, specialists, and Education Minister Pavle Zgaga.

www.soros.si

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$4,295,000
ARTS & CULTURE	724,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	602,000
EAST EAST	206,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	310,000
EDUCATION	589,000
INFORMATION	484,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	160,000
MEDIA	168,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	4,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	311,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	17,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	70,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	216,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	132,000
ADMINISTRATION	302,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Slovenia totaling \$429,000, principally in information and education programs.

SOUTH AFRICA : AMANI WILLET



Ettwa Ettwa Township, outside Johannesburg



Ettwa Ettwa Township

Khayelitsha Township, outside Capetown





Soweto

Open Society Foundation for South Africa

“I am leaving this enormously fulfilling and challenging position with the confidence that OSF-SA is in good shape to face the road ahead. I want to thank the dedicated and hard-working staff, members of the board, and, above all, all those many South Africans who have assisted OSF-SA in its work of contributing to building an open society in our country.”

MICHAEL SAVAGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 1993–2000

Since its inception in July 1993, the Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA) has focused on program areas likely to produce sustainable change: training for local government; media, with a focus on community radio; youth development; rural community development, with a focus on the empowerment of women; human rights and democracy-building; education, with a focus on math, science, and technology in schools in the Eastern Cape and Northern Provinces; criminal justice; and small and micro-entrepreneurial development. Also, OSF-SA has supported information technology and electronic connectivity and funded small, innovative projects that may have wide impact.

The Foundation had an active year in 1999. Two new programs, the Criminal Justice Initiative and the Small and Micro-Enterprise Program, began operations; the Education Initiative continued its important efforts to establish school-based projects in the Northern Province; and the Community Radio Program helped the media prepare for national elections. OSF-SA was honored to have former President Nelson Mandela deliver the fifth Open Society Annual Lecture in October.

To address the burgeoning crime rates in South Africa, the new Criminal Justice Program supported the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s work with the Ministry of Jus-

tice on pretrial services and an anti-carjacking project. Other community anticrime efforts included projects targeting the high rate of violence against women.

The Kgatelopele Project, part of the Education Initiative, had another successful year in 1999. This creative and productive partnership between OSF-SA and the Northern Province Department of Education focused on 120 schools to develop school managers and management teams, to empower school governing bodies, and to assist teachers in math, science, and English.

Another project of the Education Initiative, the Mathematics Learning and Teaching Initiative (MALATI), concluded in December 1999 after several productive years. MALATI contributed to national mathematics education by improving and publishing teaching materials in selected areas of school syllabi.

The Community Radio Program emphasized voter education and impartial media coverage in the run-up to the second national democratic elections. In conjunction with two other organizations, the Program produced two manuals, *Voters, the Elections, and Radio* and *Curriculum for Training Community Radio Station Managers*. The Program funded a series of workshops and awarded small grants to individual community radio stations. In addition to promoting impartial media coverage, OSF-SA also supported the Independent Electoral Institute of South Africa, the publication of multilingual voter education materials for public distribution, and a consortia of NGOs providing basic voter education in selected geographic areas.

www.soros.org/natfound/safrica.html

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$9,774,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	2,033,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	775,000
EDUCATION	2,028,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	1,983,000
MEDIA	408,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	157,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	405,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	295,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	1,060,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	17,000
ADMINISTRATION	613,000

Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

“War, crime, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic threaten the overall social and economic stability of the region.

OSISA works to strengthen society’s capacity to address these challenges.”

LUCY MUYOYETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The fragile and volatile social, political, and economic environment in the region made the work of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) in its nine member countries—Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—even more challenging in 1999.

Presidential and parliamentary elections took place in many of the OSISA countries. In most cases, either the elections failed to bring much-needed new leadership into power or the elections were disputed, lending a lack of credibility to the results.

Some governments continue to divert limited national resources from social development to war and conflict, thereby creating crises at the national and regional levels. Angola plunged into its third period of open warfare since the country gained independence in 1975. More than half a million Angolans have died during the conflict and at least one million have been displaced. It is estimated that 9 million to 15 million landmines riddle Angola’s landscape. Late in the year, the war spilled over Namibia’s borders, killing innocent civilians and threatening the country’s stability.

The war that erupted a year ago in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) led to serious disagreements among neighboring countries. Some—such as Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe—opted for military intervention and others for a negotiated settlement. Disagreements also grew within countries. In Zimbabwe,

citizens protested their country’s involvement in the DRC, which drains much-needed money from national coffers. The loss of foreign currency reserves, the devaluation of currency, fuel shortages, and spiraling inflation rates are sending the country into economic and social disarray.

Violence and other forms of crime are also on the increase in the region, making states and economies more vulnerable to criminal control. Estimates of revenues generated by the criminal underworld are as high as \$12.5 billion annually. Syndicates involved in narcotics and arms smuggling and vehicle thefts are on the rise.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in the subregion has outpaced all original projections by two to three times, with infection rates reaching 15 to 25 percent in some nations. HIV/AIDS has become the leading cause of death in southern Africa, especially among women, who are infected at a rate 20 to 30 percent higher than men. The epidemic has had a profound impact on the region’s health and education systems, productivity levels, and overall social and economic stability.

Against this backdrop, OSISA has supported programs in areas intended to strengthen and improve the capacity of societies to address major challenges and to engage governments on these issues. To promote human rights and democracy, OSISA provided support for a wide range of activities and placed emphasis on women’s issues, advocacy for economic reform, and rights issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Through its Angola education initiative, OSISA attempted to restore some vitality to a system that has almost totally collapsed. In addition, education for girls

continued to be a priority in a region where girls' enrollment rates in schools are often far below those of boys.

OSISA's media support included funding for campaigns to monitor election coverage in Malawi and Mozambique. In hostile political environments, the foundation encouraged the use of new information technologies to share information within and across borders. In Angola, OSISA provided funds and training for a leading independent radio station to develop a website so that it could widely disseminate its broadcasts of national news and information.

OSISA also supported several radio-related projects for rural communities. In Swaziland, the foundation continued to support attempts to establish the country's first community radio station. In Malawi, a radio production company that produces soap operas addressing issues such as the prevention of HIV/AIDS and political corruption also received support in 1999.

www.soros.org/natfound/southern.html

1999 EXPENDITURES

\$3,943,000

THE CASE OF RAFAEL MARQUES

In July 1999, Angolan journalist and human rights activist Rafael Marques wrote an article describing President Jose Eduardo dos Santos as a "dictator" who is "responsible for the destruction of the country and the promotion of corruption." Marques, coordinator of the Angola office of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, was charged with defamation of the president and, in October, illegally arrested and detained for 40 days. After a trial marred by procedural irregularities, an Angolan court in March 2000 convicted Marques of defamation and sentenced him to six months in jail.

Marques's case is an important symbol of the broader fate of Angola's beleaguered independent media. Over the past year, more than 40 journalists have been harassed and questioned concerning alleged defamation and/or crimes against the security of the state. His plight is also shared by many independent journalists in other countries of the Soros foundations network, especially in nations that lack a tradition of the media as a "fourth estate" monitoring and, when necessary, criticizing policies of the government and actions of officials.

The Soros foundations network, in coordination with the Committee to Protect Journalists, Human Rights Watch, and other international organizations, mounted a defense campaign on behalf of Marques, providing him with legal assistance and rallying public attention and support for his case. His conviction is being appealed. For information about Marques's situation, access the special OSI website www.soros.org/marques.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation– Tajikistan

“The Foundation supports numerous activities to encourage progress toward democracy and openness rather than regression toward the old ways of totalitarianism.”

OINHOL BOBONAZAROVA, BOARD CHAIR

With greater stability, Tajikistan is now at a crossroads: it may choose to move toward the creation of a democratic and open society with the rule of law and justice, or it may regress toward the old ways of totalitarianism. The Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Tajikistan, in collaboration with other organizations, is supporting numerous activities to encourage forward progress at this important moment in history.

The Implementation of Law Program focused in 1999 on legal and human rights education, reform of the election system, and access to information for NGOs and governmental and educational institutions. Training for lawyers and judges was also a priority, with 80 attending Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute events in CIS countries and Hungary. A competition for the best books on national law resulted in the publication and distribution of booklets in the Tajik and Russian languages. The Legal Information Center in Dushanbe opened in 1999, providing materials and training.

OSIAF–Tajikistan carried out many activities related to higher education, scholarships, support for travel, and the development of NGOs. The Foundation’s academic programs included collaboration with the Central European University, the network Higher Education Support Program, and a summer school on social sciences. The

Education and Information Center in Dushanbe opened in 1999, providing materials to university students and professors. Secondary School and Youth Programs organized events for teachers and students to encourage critical thinking and debate and to introduce new teaching methods. The Soros English Language Program established the English Language Resource Center, which offers publications and teacher training.

Twenty-seven professionals from Tajikistan participated in the East East Program, attending conferences on public policy, education, and media in several countries of Central Asia. The Travel Grants Program enabled more than 83 Tajiks to attend festivals, conferences, seminars, workshops, and research and study programs.

In the area of health, OSIAF–Tajikistan opened a Medical Information Center in collaboration with the Obstetrics and Gynecology Research Institute in Dushanbe, as part of the Mother and Child Project. More than 150 doctors attended seminars at the Center. In addition, grants supported the participation of doctors and health professionals in such programs as the Salzburg Seminar for Physicians, Albert Schweitzer Medical Seminar, and Dubrovnik Medical Summer School.

The Arts and Culture Program planned two new projects, the Festival of Modern Tajik Music and a Contemporary Visual Arts Exhibition. Twenty-four artists and arts managers participated in the Cultural Link program, and a Tajik documentary filmmaker won the Best Director award at the One World Human Rights Film Festival in Prague.

The Publishing Program cooperated with the British Council to complete an important translation and initiated publication of an English language textbook. Ten publishers from Tajikistan were sent to different regions for training. The Library Program started work on internal computer systems for three large libraries, supported

21 libraries with subscriptions to journals and newspapers, donated materials, and organized training workshops. Seventy librarians participated in seminars outside of Tajikistan. The Pushkin Library Project made plans to provide 16 libraries with 12,800 books published in Russia.

The Women’s Program in 1999 focused on domestic violence, human rights, and the law. A core group of women from the NGO and governmental sectors participated in training programs through the network Human Rights Advanced Leadership Training Program for Women. A seminar on the legal aspects of violence against women resulted in the establishment of the League of Women Lawyers. Members of women’s organizations attended a seminar on the role of women in democratization in the Khatlon region, where war has produced a refugee crisis. More equitable treatment of boys and girls in educational approaches was the focus of a seminar for Tajik trainers as part of the Empowering Education Project.

Also in 1999, OSIAF–Tajikistan provided 39 small grants in the areas of law and human rights, education, women’s programs, the Internet, media, medicine, and arts and culture.

www.soros.org/tajkstan.html

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$1,480,000
ARTS & CULTURE	95,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	65,000
EAST EAST	10,000
EDUCATION	261,000
INFORMATION	260,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	262,000
MEDIA	50,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	7,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	136,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	65,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	12,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	8,000
ADMINISTRATION	249,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Tajikistan totaling \$163,000, principally in education programs.

International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine)

“We do not believe that the free market economy will solve all problems. Support and protection for local initiatives that advance open society is equally important.”

HRYHORII NEMYRYIA, BOARD CHAIR

The year 1999 was productive for the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) in both ongoing and new endeavors in many program areas.

The Foundation initiated the Public Advocacy Program in 1999 to develop and introduce effective mechanisms of civil rights protection. Its activities focused on the most vulnerable sections of the population and on areas not yet regulated by legislation. The program also introduced international standards of basic rights and freedoms, monitored human rights issues, and published *Know Your Rights* booklets to help educate the public about the law.

Another pilot project started in 1999, in collaboration with the State Department of Ukraine for Issues of Administering Punishment, involved penitentiary reform. Efforts to promote the democratic transformation of the penitentiary system included support for legislative initiatives, debate in the mass media, the introduction of nonpenitentiary punishment for petty crimes, training for penitentiary personnel, and support for NGOs working with convicts and recently discharged ex-convicts.

The Information Program continued in 1999 to support public initiatives aimed at influencing government policy in the publishing industry. The Program also continued to fund the publication of Ukrainian and Western authors, and it completed efforts to expand the Internet network in Ukraine.

The Arts and Culture Program focused on three areas: interregional cooperation, experimental modern art, and the development of art in the form of new media. The Program seeks to further the cultural revival of Ukrainian regions, encouraging the younger generation of artists, promoting new and independent art, and opening up new prospects for artists.

To improve the legal framework for public administration, IRF supported the preparation of two draft laws and a number of projects designed to ensure fiscal decentralization in the country. A variety of other activities improved local budget processes, strengthened municipal authorities, and enhanced communication between national and local government as part of the Democratization and Reform of Public Administration and Local Self-Government Program.

The Foundation awarded scholarships to 12 post-graduate students from Belarus for studies in the social sciences and humanities departments of several leading Ukrainian universities. The Ukrainian and Belarusian Cooperation and Exchange Program also supported a fact-finding exchange among representatives of political think tanks, government, and donor organizations.

The Mass Media Program focused on legal action to combat violations of freedom of the press and worked with international public advocacy organizations to publicize several cases of whistle-blowing in public organizations. The Program organized training sessions for journalists and seminars for electronic media reporters in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. The Foundation supported media coverage of the 1999 election, and the publication and distribution of the newspaper *Romany Yag* and the news bulletin of the Roma Youth Association.

For the Roma, IRF also initiated a program in 1999 that will create cultural and educational centers for Romani communities and help the younger generation preserve their traditions and identity. The reconstruction and inauguration of the Gasprinsky Library in Simferopol symbolized a cultural rebirth for the Crimean Tatars as well as other ethnic groups deported by Stalin.

The Foundation supported the development of women's NGOs and ensured broader access to information and other resources, linking international women's organizations with Ukrainian NGOs. Six countries that joined the Empowering Education Program in 1999 invited Ukrainian trainers from the program to share their experiences working to empower women.

www.irf.kiev.ua

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$10,200,000
ARTS & CULTURE	964,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	199,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	8,000
EAST EAST	376,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	299,000
EDUCATION	2,421,000
INFORMATION	1,753,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	314,000
MEDIA	246,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	254,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	397,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	757,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	400,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	524,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	300,000
ADMINISTRATION	988,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Ukraine totaling \$3,633,000, principally in education, economic reform, and public administration programs.

Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation– Uzbekistan

“Despite all the difficulties experienced by civil society in Uzbekistan during 1999, all of our programs in education were extremely successful. Young people, who are 60 percent of the country’s population, represent hope and the inevitability of change.”

MIKHAIL GASANOV, BOARD CHAIR

The year began with an attempt on the life of the president. The attempt failed, but the event shook the country’s confidence in its stability. The year ended with the president’s reelection after a colorless campaign in which no real opposition was allowed to express its views. People’s desire for stability and fear of anarchy contributed to a general climate of civil peace that prevailed despite an election that was regarded as a farce by most foreign observers. Promises to introduce a freely convertible national currency were not kept, and the amount of “space” for public participation and expression decreased and funding from donor organizations diminished.

The Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation–Uzbekistan did not hide its criticism of these events, yet it managed to maintain a very productive level of cooperation with government agencies and other partners.

Great strides were made in education in 1999. The legal textbook produced by the Foundation became the official civic education textbook in the upper grades of all secondary schools, with the Ministry of Education printing 100,000 copies at its own expense. Training programs to introduce new teaching methods continued to be popular among school administrators and the personnel of teacher training institutes. For the first time, the Ministry of Higher Education and OSIAF–Uzbekistan organized a competition for the best social studies lectures, which were then published in the Uzbek and Russian languages. The Debate Program, now in 120 schools, organized two parliamentary debate events in 1999.

In Uzbekistan, 1999 was officially declared the Year of the Woman. Women’s issues gained increasing attention through a number of OSI activities, including a regional conference of women’s NGOs in Samarkand, training and professional development for the leaders of women’s NGOs in collaboration with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and a three-day meeting of 30 NGO leaders to establish a global strategy for the next two years. These efforts and others over the years have contributed to a more positive atmosphere and overcome divisions to achieve a sense of common goals for a national women’s movement.

The Arts and Culture Program welcomed the publication of Mutal Burkhanov’s biography with a moving book presentation ceremony for the elderly composer, who suffered under Stalinist repression in the 1930s when most of his family was shot. Although the national hymn of independent Uzbekistan was composed from his music, Burkhanov is not always recognized for what he is: a free thinker who likes to express his independent views. Also in 1999, the Program awarded small grants that enabled photographers and painters to mount exhibitions and musicians to organize regional concerts.

Fund for an Open Society–Yugoslavia

The Media and Internet programs saw no real progress toward freedom of information this year. In fact, the winner of OSIAF–Uzbekistan’s grant competition for the best regional TV news was refused the required annual registration permit for “being too critical and for spreading negative news.” The station is suing the regional government for its action.

Among the small, innovative projects funded by OSIAF–Uzbekistan is an educational grant for a special correctional facility for girls in Kokand. Once a normal prison, it is now a place where young women may obtain an education and plan for the future after their release.

www.soros.org/uzbkstan.html

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$2,874,000
ARTS & CULTURE	199,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	86,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	49,000
EAST EAST	63,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	126,000
EDUCATION	516,000
ETHNIC MINORITIES	4,000
INFORMATION	381,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	151,000
MEDIA	113,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	19,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	157,000
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS	120,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	365,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	67,000
ADMINISTRATION	458,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Uzbekistan totaling \$485,000, principally in education programs.

“In the year 2000, as in 1999, the Fund will continue to support and bring together organizations and activists seeking social change in Yugoslavia and the region.”

SONJA LICHT, BOARD PRESIDENT

The events of 1999 made clear that the fragmentation of the entire former Yugoslav territory continues. NATO’s intervention started on March 24 and ended 78 days later on June 10 with the signing of the Military Technical Agreement and the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army and police forces from Kosovo. Kosovo is now under the administration of United Nations forces. At the same time, relations between the two Yugoslav republics Montenegro and Serbia have reached the lowest point ever.

During the past year, the Fund for an Open Society–Yugoslavia operated under extremely difficult conditions, as did the entire civil sector in the country. This refers not only to the period of war, when military censorship was introduced and martial law replaced civilian legislation, but to the overall atmosphere of fear, intolerance, and xenophobia, calculatedly disseminated via the state media. War is certainly the worst possible time for the building of an open, civil society.

Still, these most difficult circumstances brought a reinforcement of mutual solidarity among the main actors of the Yugoslav civic scene and a heightened awareness of their common objectives and values. The independent media, especially the Alternative Independent Electronic Network (ANEM), pressured by war propaganda and censorship, still found ways not only to survive but also to actively uphold their basic values.

The year had begun as every other preceding year with numerous activities in all areas of civil society. The Fund disbursed its first grants in Kosovo for efforts such as the Kosovo Education Enrichment Program (KEEP) and awarded grants in Montenegro for judicial reform,

Step by Step Roma education, and the development of NGOs. Then came NATO's intervention and all relevant donors except the Fund for an Open Society withdrew their support. Early on in this period of intervention and total isolation, the Fund continued to work under the prevailing abnormal circumstances, mostly by supporting humanitarian actions and the programs of NGOs. At the same time, the Fund became directly involved in maintaining communication and information, explaining the events in the country, and assisting the survival of endangered NGOs.

The end of the war posed a major challenge for all who for years had opposed the repressive and undemocratic policies of the Serbian regime. The NGOs and the entire civil infrastructure, along with the local media, became the main proponents of calls for change. The Fund monitored and assisted the mushrooming growth of NGOs throughout Serbia as well as the efforts of independent media to survive and expand their influence despite the state's restrictive and undemocratic Information Law. The success of these efforts can be seen in the increases in ANEM membership and the ratings of member programs, as well as a substantial increase in the circulation of the print media.

Just as the Information Law was devised to curtail freedom of information, so was the University Law an attempt to strangle the autonomy of higher education and scientific research. The Alternative Academic Educational Network (AAEN), consisting of independent professors and scientists, quickly offered itself as an attractive alternative popular among students.

The Fund's Step by Step Roma program also achieved excellent results, despite major pressures in 1999. The program included 10 kindergartens for 500 Romani children, and all children who attended the kindergartens the previous year not only enrolled in elementary schools but also successfully completed first grade. Newly created Roma NGOs actively joined in the provision of assistance to the roughly 50,000 Kosovo Roma who came to Serbia as refugees.

During the latter part of the year, the Fund's Pristina and Podgorica offices were transformed into independent foundations, the Kosova Foundation for Open Society and the Open Society Institute–Montenegro.

The era of slowly creating conditions for a future civil society is long gone. The Open Clubs throughout Serbia, which hosted about 10,000 young people in 1999, are the true centers of a new awareness and new activism. Their cooperation with local communities and other NGOs in the country and the region are of key importance for reinvigorating and releasing the forces for a democratic, open society.

All these actors for change, intensely engaged and already experienced, are well aware that the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, launched in July 1999, is essential not only for a better and more normal life, but also for the overall future of the region.

www.fosyu.opennet.org

1999 EXPENDITURES	\$8,918,000
ARTS & CULTURE	678,000
CIVIL SOCIETY	369,000
CONFERENCE & TRAVEL	50,000
EAST EAST	92,000
ECONOMIC REFORM	181,000
EDUCATION	1,481,000
INFORMATION	787,000
LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE	169,000
MEDIA	1,340,000
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	30,000
PUBLIC HEALTH	121,000
ROMA & ETHNIC MINORITIES	253,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS	212,000
YOUTH PROGRAMS	639,000
OTHER PROGRAMS	1,614,000
ADMINISTRATION	902,000

NOTE: Other Soros-supported organizations made grants in Yugoslavia totaling \$565,000, principally in education, media, and human rights programs.



NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS 1999 EXPENDITURES	\$250,081,000
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION FOR ALBANIA	5,355,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION-ARMENIA	2,045,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-AZERBAIJAN	3,141,000
OPEN SOCIETY FUND-BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	6,026,000
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION-SOFIA (BULGARIA)	9,398,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-CROATIA	6,969,000
OPEN SOCIETY FUND-PRAGUE (CZECH REPUBLIC)	3,581,000
OPEN ESTONIA FOUNDATION	4,570,000
OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION	5,428,000
FUNDACION SOROS-GUATEMALA	3,932,000
FONDATION CONNAISSANCE ET LIBERTE (HAITI)	4,561,000
SOROS FOUNDATION-HUNGARY	15,831,000
SOROS FOUNDATION-KAZAKHSTAN	5,882,000
SOROS FOUNDATION-KYRGYZSTAN	5,479,000
SOROS FOUNDATION-LATVIA	6,977,000
OPEN SOCIETY FUND-LITHUANIA	6,721,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-MACEDONIA	7,907,000
SOROS FOUNDATION-MOLDOVA	5,299,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-MONTENEGRO	245,000
MONGOLIAN FOUNDATION FOR OPEN SOCIETY	3,864,000
STEFAN BATORY FOUNDATION (POLAND)	11,094,000
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION-ROMANIA	17,626,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-RUSSIA	61,899,000
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION-BRATISLAVA (SLOVAKIA)	4,786,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-SLOVENIA	4,295,000
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTH AFRICA	9,774,000
OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA	3,943,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION-TAJIKISTAN	1,480,000
INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION (UKRAINE)	10,200,000
OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-UZBEKISTAN	2,874,000
FUND FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY-YUGOSLAVIA	8,918,000





Approaches to Issues Across the Network

Network programs address specific issue areas on a regional or network-wide basis. Network programs deal with a range of subjects, including arts and culture, economic reform, education, information, legal reform, public health, and women's rights. Network program activities are focused principally on Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Network programs are administered by the Open Society Institute–Budapest or the Open Society Institute in New York and implemented in cooperation with the national foundations.

Participation in a given network program is at the discretion of the national foundations, which establish expert boards to create country-specific implementation strategies and to comment on the effectiveness of the overall program. Network programs are intended to promote cooperation and information sharing among the organizations in the Soros foundations network. They fall into three categories: those that provide training and technical assistance to national foundations' domestic activities; operating programs that deliver services to communities outside the reach of national foundations; and competitive programs (such as scholarship and fellowship competitions).

In 1999, OSI–Budapest and OSI in New York helped the national foundations spin off a number of network programs that had proved their effectiveness and continued value while closing down other network programs that had accomplished their objectives. The transformation, where appropriate, of successful network programs into independent nongovernmental organizations is in keeping with the overall strategy of the Soros foundations network to support and strengthen NGOs as vital to the building of open societies.

The Children and Youth Network Program, for example, assisted the national foundations in establishing their debate and Step by Step preschool programs as independent NGOs. As these recently registered NGOs work to become self-sustaining, the Open Society Institute will continue to provide support through the national foundations and through two new umbrella organizations, the International Step by Step Association (ISSA) and the International Debate Education Association (IDEA).

The Network Public Health Programs, on the other hand, will close a number of programs, including the Salzburg Medical Seminars and the Hospital Development Program, by the end of 2000. These programs contributed to sustaining and improving basic medical care in Central and Eastern Europe during the transition years. The current focus of the Public Health Programs is on promoting the introduction of modern public health policies throughout the region.

A continuing priority for many of the network programs in 1999 was the integration of Roma into their activities. The Network Media Program supported training institutions in the countries of the Soros foundations network to train Romani journalists and media managers. The Media Program also provided technical assistance to Romani media and encouraged cooperation between Romani and mainstream media. (For more about the Soros foundations network's support of Roma, see the report on Roma Programs on page 164.)

The Media Program was one of many network programs that rose to the challenge of the Kosovo crisis, assisting in the development of media projects that provided information to refugees and helping key independent media survive in South Eastern Europe. In another example, the East East Program initiated a sub-program for South Eastern Europe to promote cooperation among individuals and organizations in the countries of the region.

Arts and Culture Program

In 1999, the Arts and Culture Network Program restructured its programs to focus more closely on promoting dialogue and networking among the cultures of Central and Eastern Europe, contributing to the continuing transition process, and developing an autonomous and innovative art sector. The Arts and Culture Program serves as a catalyst for national foundation cultural activities and encourages policies that, by embracing all groups of people and all disciplines of artistic expression, bring about real change in the field of arts and culture.

The main vehicle for implementing this mission is the Open Society Cultural Link program. Cultural Link seeks to establish new cultural contacts, to stimulate cooperation among artists, and to increase cultural benefits for the public through the networking and sharing of resources among the national foundations in Central and Eastern Europe. In 1999, Cultural Link provided support for 371 exhibitions, festivals, concerts, workshops, and performances in everything from dance to film to new media. The majority of cultural events involved more than two participating countries, with many of the events bringing together distant countries.

Cultural Link events provided an opportunity for exchange in regions in political crisis (Balkans) or between countries linked by tradition but separated by politics (Slovakia and the Czech Republic, Baltics, Hungary and Romania, Central Asia). Many events explored important social issues, such as human rights, Roma and ethnic minorities, drug addiction, children at risk, and juvenile offenders.

The First International Human Rights Film Festival “One World,” held in Prague, promoted recognition of global responsibility for human rights. The Festival screened 46 documentaries from Tajikistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Cuba, Germany, and Belgium.

At the “Homo Novus” Festival in Riga, Latvia, an Albanian theater company performed a play called *The Late Coming Bones*, which is about redefining identity after the collapse of a huge political and social structure, a subject of mutual concern to the Balkans and the Baltics.

In Ulaanbataar, Mongolia, the International Festival of Contemporary Music “Roaring Hoofs” opened a window to the world for Mongolian musicians who, until now, have been cut off from international music organizations. The music was presented, not in concert halls, but rather in the vast spaces of the steppes, much to the fascination of numerous nomads in neighboring pastures.

Among the many arts and culture initiatives that ended in 1999 were the Performing Arts Program and the Open Museum Initiative. During its existence, the Performing Arts Program helped national foundations develop effective cultural policies and strategies for strengthening an independent performing arts sector. The Program supported management and artistic training, professional exchange programs, and provided a link with the international arts community. The Open Museum Initiative focused on museum management, professional training, public outreach, and educational programs.

Another program, Artslink, will continue on a smaller scale with support from a number of other organizations that had sponsored it in collaboration with OSI. Through U.S. residencies, Artslink provided arts managers and artists from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union with the opportunity to collaborate with their American counterparts in all disciplines.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center received its final grant in 1999 for an exchange program that brought museum conservators from Eastern Europe to study paper, textile, and painting conservation techniques at the Center. Finally, in 1999, the Soros Centers for Contemporary Art, funded by the national foundations at reduced levels, spun off as independent arts institutions connected by a new “networking” organization called ICAN.

Center for Publishing Development

The Center for Publishing Development runs large-scale electronic and print publishing projects of its own, provides professional support for the publishing activities of the Soros foundations network, and conducts policy analysis on the publishing and information-provision sector in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The goal of these projects and activities is twofold. First, they support books and digital resources that promote open society values by enriching public debate and providing knowledge needed for civil society and good governance. Second, they help build a diverse and independent publishing and information industry as a pivotal institution of civil society in its own right.

The Center’s Electronic Publishing Development Program (EPDP) supports the creation of digital content through training programs conducted at the Center for Advanced Media in Prague and provides seed grants for model projects. In 1999, together with the Network Library Program, EPDP launched the Electronic Information for Libraries initiative. This is a consortium partnership with EBSCO Publishing that provides low-cost access to several thousand academic, medical, and business journals in electronic form to a broad range of libraries in about 40 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Africa. It is the biggest knowledge-provision consortium of its kind in the world. EPDP also organizes a large annual conference with the European Commission’s Information Society directorate to spawn partnerships between electronic publishers in Eastern and Western Europe.

The Center operates the Translation Project, a major initiative designed to meet the region’s need for key texts in the social sciences and humanities in local languages. Through open competitions, the Project provides grants to local publishers for the translation and publication of books needed for civil society and higher education. These include contemporary and classic works in political science, economics, and sociology as well as practice-oriented books in areas such as policy analysis, public administration, and human rights. A special East Translates East component supports translations between the languages of Eastern Europe. Smaller specialized competitions focus on areas of high priority like Roma or women’s issues. By the end of 1999, the Center had supported the publication of more than 700 translations, with about a thousand more in preparation.

The Center conducted a wide variety of training events, including an intensive three-week publishing school in Mongolia, an internship program for publishers from CIS countries in Poland, and a series of seminars on publishers’ associations, marketing and distribution, copyright, finance, bookselling, translation, and book information systems in more than a dozen countries. A new focus was the creation of permanent pro-

fessional training centers, with a workshop on university-based publishing studies programs and a survey of training needs sponsored jointly with the European Union's Leonardo Program. Other training projects included the publication of an ongoing series of practical handbooks on a range of issues, including copyright, financial management, and marketing, tailored to the needs of local publishers and made available in local languages. The Center's website was redesigned to make available a rich set of tools and resources for publishers, trainers, and policymakers.

In 1999, the Center launched an innovative policy resource: the Publishing Legislation Online Project. This comparative database provides country-by-country analysis of policies and texts of laws covering issues such as the freedom to publish, intellectual property law, taxation, and educational publishing.

A series of policy workshops was initiated at the end of 1999 with a conference on alternative models of provision, focusing on textbook rental schemes. Participants came from Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean.

The Center provides professional support services to both national foundations and network programs through such endeavors as the Pushkin Library Project for publishers and libraries in Russia and other CIS countries, and the preparation of a new multivolume Russian language universal encyclopedia to be published in 2000. In 1999, the Center also operated the Central European University Press, which publishes academic titles in English from the region for worldwide distribution.

www.osi.hu/cpd

Children and Youth Programs

The goal of the Network Children and Youth Programs is to bring innovative approaches to existing social and educational structures that have an impact on the welfare and development of children and adolescents. Projects emphasize humane and democratic principles and promote the development of the individual child to his or her full potential.

www.soros.org/netprog.html

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAM

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program aims to ameliorate the problem of child abuse in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union through multidisciplinary cooperation. This issue is of critical importance in a region where economic hardship, the collapse of safety nets, and ignorance of the problem have contributed to the endangerment of children. With OSI's help, multidisciplinary teams have created nonprofit, professional associations or treatment and service centers devoted to addressing child abuse prevention and treatment issues and child welfare reform. OSI provides professional mentoring from regional and international experts, resource packages, funding for innovative local projects, and regional and in-country training.

I*EARN

OSI support for the International Education and Resource Network (I*EARN) has enabled 19 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to become active members of this innovative online community. I*EARN provides primary and secondary school students and teachers in 53 countries with the opportunity to work together on interactive Internet projects in the social sciences, language arts, creative arts, science, and math. The collaborative projects through the

Internet, which cover issues ranging from women's rights to the environment, are published electronically and in print.

KARL POPPER DEBATE PROGRAM

The Karl Popper Debate Program has introduced debate in secondary schools and universities in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Haiti since 1994. Debate is a powerful means of encouraging critical thinking, personal expression, and tolerance for the opinions of others. The Debate Program offers students and teachers the opportunity to examine issues affecting their lives and their communities. Participants come to recognize that free and open discussion is essential to the establishment and preservation of open societies. More than 65,000 students and 14,000 teachers have participated in the program, which is currently active in 27 countries.

The Program has created debate resource centers in each country to provide students and teachers with current publications, reference materials, and computer access. The Program has also published textbooks, training videos, and an electronic newsletter, and maintains a website: www.idebate.org. Tournaments, training workshops, and Internet debates are conducted throughout the year. In order to develop a sustainable system in each country, the Program in 1999 created the International Debate Education Association to sustain the international activities of the Karl Popper Debate Program by developing international contacts, organizing events, and fundraising.

Students and teachers from 31 countries participate in the International Debate Camp, organized each summer in a different country around an issue of importance to open society. The 1999 camp, held in Croatia, focused on criminal justice. In 2000 in Poland, the theme will be the environment, and students will debate the resolution: "The world should limit economic development in order to protect the environment."

READING AND WRITING FOR CRITICAL THINKING

The project's fundamental premise is that democratic practices in education play an important role in the transition toward open societies, and that educating active learners is the best use of educational resources. Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking's goal is to help teachers change classroom practices at all grade levels and in most school subjects in order to promote active inquiry, student-initiated learning, opinion formation, problem-solving, and cooperative learning. The project trains teachers and teacher educators, and works closely with staff at teacher-training universities and retraining institutes, as well as at ministries and inspectorates. In 1999, teachers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Uzbekistan joined participants from Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia, and Ukraine (now in their second year of the project) and participants from Albania, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, and Russia (now in their third year).

SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Through open, merit-based competitions, the Secondary School Scholarships Program provides secondary school students from Central and Eastern Europe with the opportunity to study for up to one year in the United Kingdom, the United States, or the Czech Republic. Among the opportunities available are scholarships awarded directly by some of the top private schools in each country. In 1999, competitions in 16 countries produced 380 scholarship recipients. The Program encourages students to take part in volunteer activities during the scholarship period and upon their return home in order to foster a sense of responsibility to the community.

STEP BY STEP PROGRAM

Step by Step is an education reform program that introduces child-centered teaching methods and supports community and family involvement in preschool and primary school. The aim of the Program is to engender

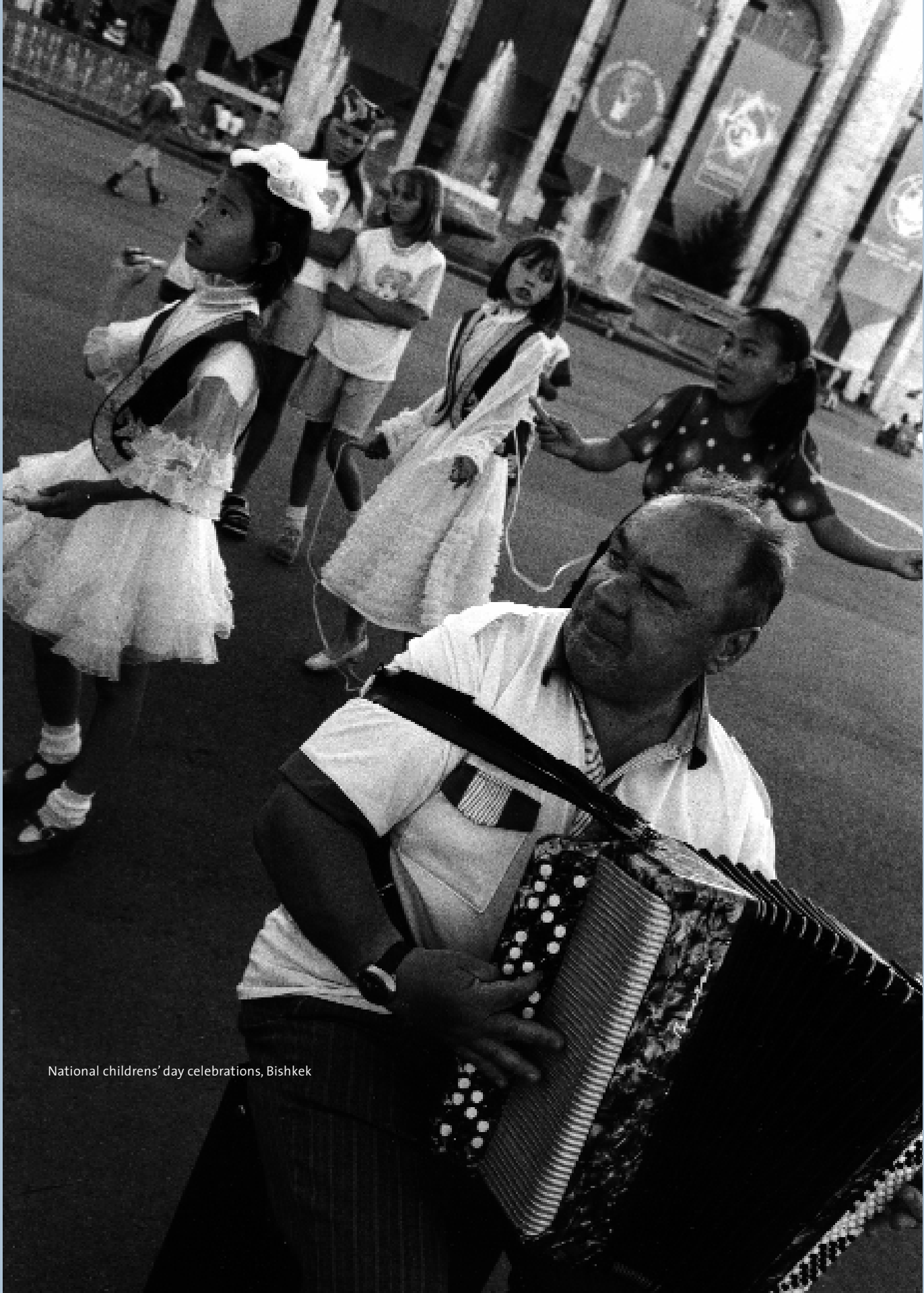
CHILDREN IN KYRGYZSTAN : JEREMY SUTTON-HIBBERT



Tajik refugee children at a summer camp supported by OSI-Kyrgyzstan near Osh

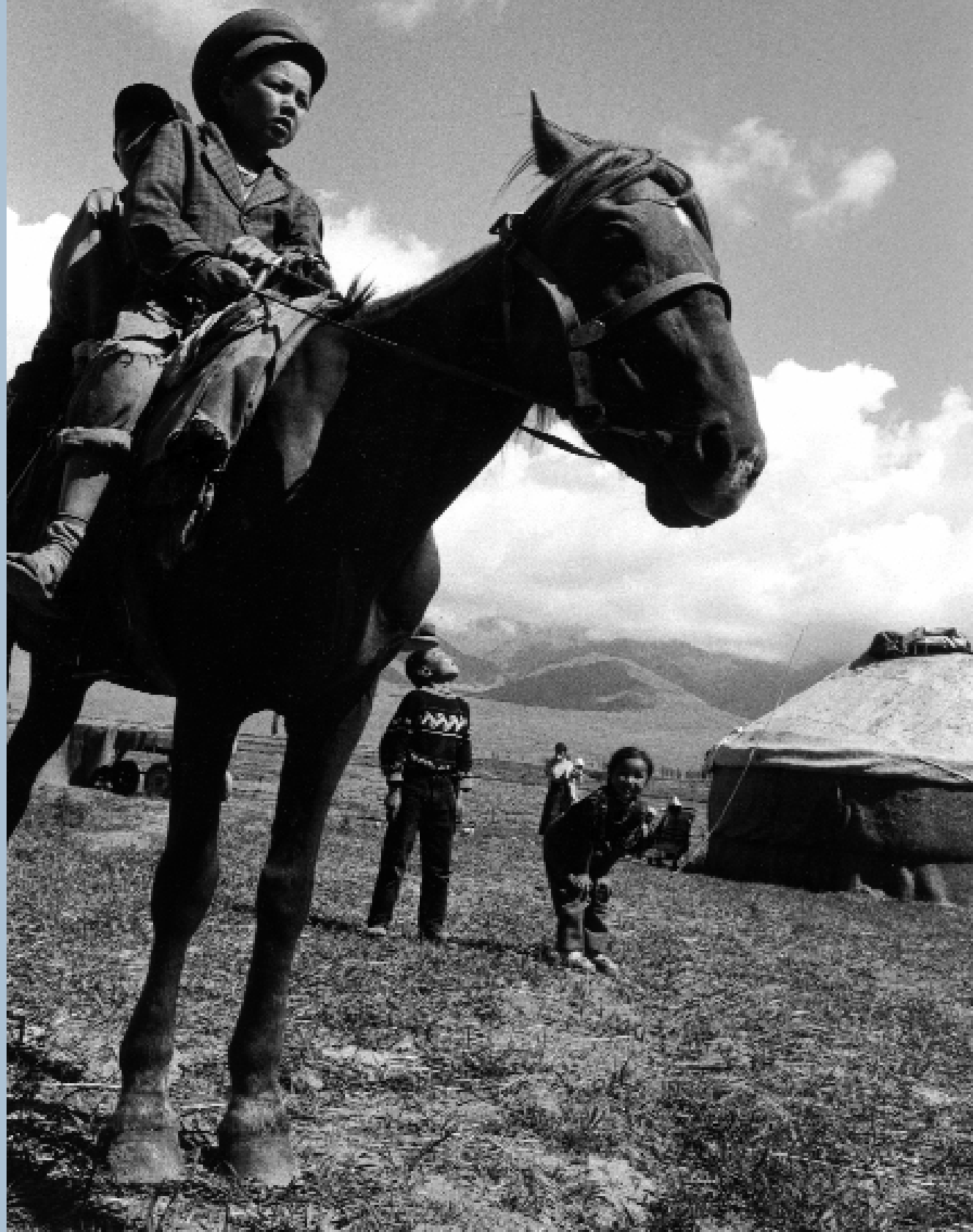
Summer at a yurt near Lake Issyk-Kul





National childrens' day celebrations, Bishkek

Near Lake Issyk-Kul



democratic principles and practices in young children and their families. The Step by Step method encourages children to make choices, take responsibility for their decisions, express their ideas with creativity, help one another, develop critical thinking skills, and practice independent thinking. The Program promotes the right of all children to a quality education, and provides materials and training to insure equal access for children of minority families, children with disabilities, Roma, refugees, and families living in poverty. Now in its fifth year, the Step by Step Program annually provides training to more than 23,000 teachers in 28 countries or territories, serving more than 500,000 children and their families. Each country's Step by Step Program is tailored to local circumstances.

The Program provides an innovative and comprehensive five-year approach to institutional reform of early childhood education by training teachers and administrators at model schools; training faculty at universities and pedagogical institutes on new course content and interactive teaching methods; cooperating with education and health ministries regarding education policies; establishing national associations for parents, teachers, and faculty to advocate for reforms in early childhood education and to promote ongoing professional development; and creating an international forum for parents, teachers, and faculty to promote open society values in education.

By the end of the five-year program cycle, each in-country team of early childhood experts aims to establish a national Step by Step NGO to take over management of the Program and contribute an independent voice to the country's education debate. In 1999, the Step by Step Program established the International Step by Step Association to promote the Step by Step philosophy internationally and to provide training, professional development, and technical assistance in the participating countries.

STREET LAW PROGRAM

The Street Law Program supports civic and law-related education projects throughout Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia with the goal of enabling young people to contribute to civil society as well-educated, well-prepared citizens. The Program operates in secondary schools, youth centers, and local government agencies.

Street Law offers students practical, participatory education about law, democracy, and human rights. Students learn to think critically, express their views confidently, and become active in their communities through classroom activities that can easily be applied in everyday situations. Such activities include community-based projects; visits to local courthouses; mock trials, simulations, and mediations; and regular classroom visits by police officers, judges, lawyers, and other community resource people. The Program is active in the following countries: Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The mission of the Volunteer Development Program is to create an active citizenry in emerging democratic societies by supporting the establishment of sustainable volunteer programs, which provide citizens the opportunity to strengthen their community through volunteer service. By the end of 1999, the Volunteer Development Program had successfully introduced the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, hospital volunteerism, and a network of national Volunteer Centers in 16 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program, in partnership with BBBS International, promotes the idea of a professionally supported, safe, one-to-one relationship between an adult volunteer and a child in need. This relationship helps the child gain confidence, increase self-esteem, and become a stronger personality.

The Hospital Volunteerism Initiative supports the establishment of volunteer programs in hospitals and medical institutions to assist patients and their families in time of need. Hospital volunteers make important contributions to the care patients receive, to the services provided to family members, and to administrative and clerical departments.

Volunteer Centers encourage citizens to become more involved in their communities. The Centers acknowledge and reward this service, initiate appropriate programs in response to community needs, and publicly advocate for the rights of individuals to influence their lives through personal involvement. In addition, the Centers link volunteers with local NGOs, creating meaningful relationships and promoting the sustainability of the region's third sector.

Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute

The Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute (COLPI) contributes to the development of open societies in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Mongolia through support for legal reform, basic rights, and democratic institutions. An important aspect of this mission is to help develop and strengthen the legal programs of the national foundations in those countries.

COLPI's work promotes the development of legal infrastructure. Initiatives address the judiciary, prosecutors' offices, legal aid institutions, the penitentiary system, the media, and legal education institutions. COLPI deals with issues related to human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, democracy, and the protection of national minorities.

COLPI's reform strategy includes activities that enhance transparency, combat corruption, and demystify the criminal justice system, and inform the general public about their rights and obligations under the law.

COLPI also supports civil society NGOs and efforts to help society's most vulnerable groups.

In 1999, COLPI made several important advances in the area of police reform. A community policing project, launched in partnership with the Mongolian Foundation for an Open Society, aims to transform the police from a force into a public service. It involves decentralization, building relationships with the media, and closer contact and communication with the members of the community. The project provides advice on necessary legal changes, supports community policing policies in pilot districts, and promotes public awareness.

COLPI provided assistance with curriculum reform for police training institutions throughout the region, in particular for the newly established Kosovo Police School. During the Kosovo refugee crisis, COLPI's police training seminars, conducted in partnership with OSI-Macedonia and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, represented the first international effort to assist police in meeting the challenges brought on by the crisis. The seminars focused on behavioral skills that help police carry out their duties professionally in extraordinary circumstances, ways of dealing sensitively with trauma victims, and a review of human rights standards in policing and international humanitarian law.

In an important new development, COLPI has also become the principal regional player in the international campaign to promote the ratification of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Statute. The ICC Statute provides for a permanent criminal court to investigate and bring to justice individuals who commit the most serious violations of international humanitarian law such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Building on its initiatives prior to the adoption of the statute, in the fall of 1999, COLPI hosted an international conference that examined the steps involved in the ratification process, the challenges facing states in the region, and other preparations for ratification, such as modifications in national legislation.

In addition, COLPI continued to make progress in pro-

moting clinical legal education in the region. The aim is to provide free legal aid to the weakest groups in society, to assist law students in developing practical legal skills, and to promote a sense of responsibility to society within the legal profession. By the end of the year, in partnership with national foundations, COLPI had concluded contracts to support 19 new clinics in Russia, six in Kazakhstan, and six in Ukraine, as well as new clinics in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan.

www.osi.hu/colpi

East East Program

Countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia engaged in building open societies benefit from cross-border partnerships and cooperation in identifying and sharing regional and global experiences, expertise, and best practices in social innovation. The East East Program provides opportunities to share experiences in resolving urgent questions of social development, promoting social innovation and activism, and influencing local and regional development.

East East Program exchanges generate and pilot ideas by bringing together diverse resources, voices, and grassroots initiatives to influence social innovation or overcome deficiencies in social development. East East Program exchanges contribute to policy dialogue and formulation on urgent issues affecting the general public.

The East East Program focuses on contemporary challenges, including, but not limited to, empowerment and diversity of civil society; disadvantaged and marginalized sectors of society; multicultural acceptance, diversity, and cultural interaction; public health policy and health care innovation; the impact of economic transition; and environmental protection and advocacy. In

1999, the Program supported 316 cross-border exchanges, seminars, workshops, symposia, roundtables, working groups, and study visits.

East East Program projects are in constant creative development as the Program seeks to explore innovative ways of responding to complex and changing social, economic, political, and cultural processes in the region.

In 1999, the East East Program initiated a subprogram for South Eastern Europe to promote cooperation among individuals and organizations in the countries from the region, including Greece and Turkey. The subprogram seeks to discover and inspire the new vision and energy required to address the political, economic, and social crises that plague South Eastern Europe. It works for stability, security, and democracy across the region and promotes integration across national boundaries, as well as ethnic, religious, and other divides. Rapid response and flexibility are among the subprogram's operational priorities.

Subprogram projects respond to current circumstances in the region and are designed to promote cooperation over the long term. Among other issues, the subprogram addresses the social and psychological consequences of war; the weak state alienated from the public; ethnic conflict; the lack of a developed private sector and an engaged corporate community; and the lack of cross-border mobility and integration.

Projects in South Eastern Europe included the following:

- A July brainstorming session in Slovenia for representatives of regional think tanks and policy institutes in South Eastern Europe to elaborate strategies for the postwar future of South Eastern Europe and ensure regional participation in international discussions about Stability Pact implementation.
- A follow-up exchange in September in Bulgaria to focus on regional security and development in South Eastern Europe and to formulate policy recommendations for the international community.
- A regional network of think tanks, the Southeast

Europe Policy Institute Network, initiated in Macedonia in September to promote effective methods of communicating regional policy institute recommendations and information to inform international dialogue about the future of South Eastern Europe.

www.soros.org/easteast

Economic and Business Development Program

By using local experts and resources, the Economic and Business Development Program assists the national foundations in their work promoting the restructuring of transitional economies. The Program has become an important catalyst for economic development in the region, playing a critical role in several areas, particularly in microfinance and small-enterprise development. In an effort to help build a market economy and create new jobs, the Economic and Business Development Program seeks to build and strengthen local institutions that provide access to capital and other services using local experts and resources.

The creation of a small business sector is a dramatic structural change in transitional economies. A major problem faced by emerging small businesses is the lack of access to capital due to limited resources and management experience, as well as excessive requirements with regards to collateral. The Program helps eliminate these obstacles by using innovative lending approaches. In 1999, the Economic and Business Development Program collaborated with national foundations and other international donor organizations to support small business loans in Bulgaria, microlending in urban areas in Albania, and credit unions in Lithuania.

The Program uses the Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF), an independent nonprofit foundation, as its primary vehicle for funding micro- and small-busi-

ness development programs. SEDF provides support for financial institutions involved in economic development programs in the form of loans, guarantees, and equity investments.

In addition to access to credit, Economic and Business Development Program entrepreneurs need training and assistance in business management practices and information about gaining entry to new markets and trading partners. In 1999, the Economic and Business Development Program supported business development services for micro- and small-business enterprises, providing assistance for the development of small business centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Bulgaria. The aim of these centers is to teach practical skills such as marketing, business accounting, and negotiation, and to rebuild commercial ties between small enterprises in the region.

The Economic and Business Development Program also continued to provide support to the Retraining of the Military Program in Russia and Ukraine. This Program, in addition to providing social adaptation services to decommissioned officers, encourages self-employment by providing a range of business services, including access to credit through credit unions and business incubators in several locations in the two countries.

The Economic and Business Development Program also supports the development of specific sectors, such as lending programs targeting small-scale private publishers (in Hungary and Macedonia) and programs targeting private health care providers (to be launched soon in Romania).

A final concern of the Economic and Business Development Program is teaching youth business and economic skills at the secondary school level. In 1999, the Program continued to provide support for Junior Achievement after-school programs in countries such as Albania, Moldova, Haiti, and Mongolia.

www.soros.org/netprog.html

English Language Programs

English Language Programs help the countries of the Soros foundations network prepare individuals and groups for a world in which English has become a necessary language for international communication in more and more professional and academic fields.

In 1999, the Soros Professional English Language Teaching Program (SPELT) continued to provide participating countries of the Soros foundations network with English as a Foreign Language (EFL) specialists who bring modern teaching methodology to universities and teacher training colleges, run teacher training workshops, and assist other foundation programs which need EFL support. In 1999, the number of SPELT teacher trainers increased significantly in order to foster local capacity building via systematic development of EFL teacher training. SPELT trainers developed a common teacher training curriculum for the entire network of foundations in order to assure that local programs meet international professional standards.

The Soros English Language Program (SELP) focuses on country-specific needs for English language support. Its efforts include the preparation of students for international English language exams required by American and British universities, development of teacher training projects in the field of English for Specific Purposes, diversification of professional portfolios of the Soros English/foreign language schools established in the foundations network, and development of textbooks that meet the requirements of government-sponsored educational reform. In addition, SELP supported the activities of local, national, and regional EFL teachers' associations and their special interest groups, whose most noteworthy effort in 1999 was the introduction of internationally recognized quality standards in foreign language education in the private sector.

Highlights for 1999 included a new English language program for Roma leaders; a week-long NGO training workshop in Uzbekistan, in collaboration with the British Council, to help teachers' associations with financial

management, fundraising, and relationships with ministries and other state bodies; and the introduction of distance learning in teacher training in Haiti, Montenegro, and Samara, Russia. In collaboration with the London Chamber of Commerce, Soros International House–Kiev established a center for training local teachers to become certified instructors of English for business purposes.

www.soros.org/netprog.html

Institute for Educational Policy

In 1999, the Institute for Educational Policy (IEP) collaborated with the network's national foundations in creating coherent policy frameworks for the planning, development, and implementation of education programs in preschool, primary, secondary, and community education. For education at the university level, IEP worked closely with the Higher Education Support Program.

IEP assisted national foundations in building networks with each other through conferences, seminars, referrals, and a regular newsletter. It also responded to requests from many of the foundations for advice, consultancy, and technical support in specialist areas. In addition, the Institute developed a resource center that provided information, materials, and Internet links on specific education issues.

IEP helped network foundations align their work with OSI policies. Particularly important in 1999 was the support given for strategic planning as part of developing annual plans and budgets. IEP assisted the national foundations by organizing a conference on strategy development and visiting countries at their request in a consultancy role. In addition, it conducted three seminars in Estonia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine on strategy development, planning, and evaluation for the national board members in these and other countries.

The Institute gave special attention to multicultural and Roma education, helping the network's foundations include Roma education programs in their strategies. It organized a conference on multicultural education for countries where this is a priority area and promoted networking and exchanges of information about good practices, including successful teaching and learning methodologies for Romani children. It also developed two resource packages and a Roma website.

IEP continued to assist in the planning and delivery of the large-scale Educational Development Programs (EDPs) in Albania, Georgia, Mongolia, Romania, and Russia. This involved advice in developing strategy documents and implementation plans. At the same time, IEP helped the EDPs establish cofunding arrangements with other donors, mainly the World Bank, and secure the participation of the ministries of education and other key institutions and stakeholders in education reform within the countries.

The Institute prepared papers on multicultural education and school improvement for discussion with national foundations, continuing work started in 1998. Discussion papers were also drafted on community education and educational publishing. Other papers underway cover a range of issues, including teacher training and evaluation, equity in education, the needs of education systems in South Eastern Europe, and education in countries in transition.

Support on policy matters was provided to ministries in a number of countries. Two national foundations are establishing policy associations to help governments promote national debate and consensus on education policies, and other foundations have expressed great interest in the idea. IEP also started to collect and analyze data relevant to national education policies. Policy courses for national foundations continued to help build capacity. IEP started discussions with the Central European University about establishing a program of academic study on educational policy.

www.osi.hu/iep

International Higher Education Support Program

In 1999, the International Higher Education Support Program (HESP) continued to consolidate its efforts to support institutional and faculty development in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. HESP worked with other network institutions to create strategic plans for sustainable development, emphasizing staff and faculty development, financial planning, diversification of funding, capital acquisition, and governance structures. In addition, 1999 proved to be an extremely successful year in facilitating interinstitutional mobility of staff, faculty, and students, which will strengthen HESP's institutional network and make the fullest use of existing resources and expertise.

The eight Invisible Colleges supported by HESP were brought together formally for the first time at the meeting of the Invisible College directors. The meeting served as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences and is expected to increase regional cooperation among the Invisible Colleges. HESP also brought the Belarusian Collegium into the Invisible College Network, in part to assist the Collegium in its efforts to integrate more fully into the international academic community. Most importantly, HESP initiated a comprehensive review of the Invisible Colleges to determine if they represent a viable, cost-effective program of advanced tutoring.

Also at the undergraduate level, HESP continued to work toward institutionalizing liberal arts education in the region. HESP collaborated with the Smolny Center for Liberal Arts and Sciences in St. Petersburg and the American University in Kyrgyzstan to raise the profile of liberal arts education, with each institution serving as a test model for introducing free curricula, interdepartmental credit transfer, and interdisciplinary studies. In addition to the Belarusian Collegium, the Vidzeme University College in Latvia and the Alternative Academic Education Network in Yugoslavia joined the HESP network in 1999.

The Board Training Program, introduced in 1999, illustrates the nature of HESP technical assistance to other network institutions. The Program brought together institutional leaders, rectors and vice-rectors, and members of boards of trustees for seminars examining institutional missions and the role and structure of university boards. Another successful example of technical assistance, the English Language Training for University Administrators program, expanded in 1999 to comprise two separate modules for beginning and advanced participants.

The Civic Education Project, one of HESP's large-scale programs, extended its reach to the Caucasus, Central Asia, and other countries of the former Soviet Union. The Project supports Visiting Lecturers, who are Western academics committed to teaching and performing outreach activities at institutions in the region, and Eastern scholars, local academics who have been to a Western institution for substantial training in their discipline. The Research Support Scheme, established in 1991, came to an end after fulfilling its mission of promoting innovative, high-quality research projects in the humanities and social sciences.

HESP continued to cooperate closely with the Central European University (CEU) to design and implement outreach activities geared toward faculty development and capacity building. The Course Development Competition, previously administered by HESP, was transferred to the Curriculum Resource Center of CEU, adding a new dimension to the Center's curriculum reform efforts. HESP also facilitated the exchange of administrators and faculty between the CEU and the University of Pristina, to which HESP provided emergency assistance shortly after the end of the war in Kosovo.

HESP is increasingly involved in designing and assisting large-scale educational projects of the national foundations in Russia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. A CEU/OSI task force is putting together an educational project for South Eastern Europe, in consultation with major universities in the targeted region. The program, which focuses on junior faculty, will also involve Western European and North American partners.

www.osi.hu/hesp

International OSI Policy Fellowships

In the summer of 1998, the International OSI Policy Fellowships (IPF) program set out to identify and support innovative projects of the next generation of young open society leaders in Eastern Europe, and to enlist their assistance in developing program strategies for the Soros foundations network. Over a year and more than 1,100 applications later, the program had made great strides toward its goals. OSI Policy Fellows have contributed fresh information, ideas, and program strategies, disseminated their work through prestigious publications, lectures, and websites, and even managed to secure outside funding for new and sustainable local initiatives.

With grants averaging less than \$15,000, including program administration, Fellows carry out individual projects of strategic interest to OSI that would not be undertaken without Fellowship funding. Fellows often explore alternative ways to jumpstart needed reform in countries of transition and spark public discourse about problems that may not be adequately considered and addressed. To ensure mobility and intellectual freedom, the Fellowships are flexible enough to cover project expenses, travel, stipends, survey costs, conference participation, and educational materials, depending on individual needs.

Through a series of seminars at OSI–Budapest over the course of the Fellowship year, IPF fosters mentorship relationships between Fellows and senior managers in the Soros foundations network as well as other experts, offering its Fellows unique training, guidance, and project follow-up possibilities. At the same time, IPF provides a forum for the Soros managers to discuss network-wide priorities with young leaders working in the field and incorporate their innovative research, pilot projects, and strategies into existing or new network initiatives.

In 1999, Fellowship projects focused on these OSI areas of concern: education, culture, law and human rights, public administration, civil society, media, Roma and other minorities, economic reform, publishing, public health, and gender issues. Examples of project results included Ivan Krastev’s creation of a regional network of Balkan policy institutes called the Europe South East Policy Forum, David Canek’s publication of a chapter on minorities in the Czech Republic in the book *Beyond Civil Society* and the use of his data in a lawsuit brought by Czech Roma, and Anna Kukuruza’s successful establishment of eastern Ukraine’s first early intervention center for children with disabilities.

In late 1999, IPF became a program of the new Center for Policy Studies at the Central European University in Budapest. The Center, working with a growing circle of analysts and institutions, will promote the development of policy center networks throughout the region and undertake policy research and advocacy that furthers the open society mission. Under the auspices of the Center for Policy Studies, IPF will continue to identify and support the next generation of open society leaders as well as provide them with professional training as they develop careers in public policy and contribute to the work of the Soros foundations network and other organizations.

www.osi.hu/ipf

Internet Program

The Internet is an efficient and powerful distribution mechanism that has changed every society it has reached. The Internet Program assists national foundations and other Soros-supported organizations in communicating and delivering content over the Internet. While the Program has subsidized infrastructure where necessary, creating content is the real benefit in meeting the objective of fostering open societies. More than 1 million individuals and organizations globally have benefited directly from content, training, infrastructure, and connectivity projects funded by the Internet Program since its inception in 1993.

The Internet Program targets institutions that are key to the development of civil society and, as such, benefit the population at large. The primary constituencies the Internet Program supports are academic and research institutions, schools, universities, NGOs, independent media, cultural institutions, medical institutions, libraries, and in some cases, unaffiliated individuals. From 1994 to 1997 the Program concentrated on “survival connectivity”—just making sure access existed. Since 1998, it has focused on content and training grants to targeted constituencies still lacking Internet support.

In Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the Internet Program has always concentrated on satisfying public demand. However, because the national foundations are not in the business of running Internet Service Providers (ISPs), the Program is in the midst of divesting most infrastructure created in the early days of the Program by granting it to others or spinning entities off into free-standing NGOs or commercial ISPs.

Outside the former Soviet bloc, in addition to working with the Soros-supported organizations in Haiti and Southern Africa, the Internet Program provides grants that focus on human rights and independent media. The Program has provided grants to human rights websites based in places such as Hong Kong, Cuba, and China. It has also funded an independent Arabic news site.

During 1999, the Internet Program provided funding for many new global initiatives, including \$200,000 for satellite connections in Kosovo to ensure Internet access in the postconflict area; \$120,000 to the Media Channel in New York City (www.mediachannel.org), a website endorsed by Walter Cronkite that is designed to enhance international online news; and \$50,000 to the Media Loan Development Fund (MDLF) for a popular web-based journal in Southeast Asia.

The Internet Program also continues to seek partnerships with outside institutions and to garner major corporate discounts on software and hardware. In 1999, the Program obtained commitments for more than \$3 million in third-party partnerships. For example, CISCO Systems, Ltd., and OSI are working together to create CISCO Networking Academies in Central and Eastern Europe to offer technical network training throughout the region. By providing such training in countries without the capacity to do so, the Program aims to offer technically inclined people new possibilities at home so that they can establish careers in their native region.

One of the Internet Program's major projects continues to be C@MP, the Center for Advanced Media in Prague, which was initially launched in 1998. C@MP is a part of MDLF, with the initial investment provided as a grant by the Internet Program. From the beginning of 1999, C@MP has been financially self-supporting. The main source of income to cover the operating costs and expansion are training fees and, to the extent possible, special services and new media products. Over the past year, C@MP has continued to thrive and grow as a laboratory and testing ground for special new-media solutions relevant to the ever-changing media outlets in Central and Eastern Europe. In 1999, C@MP began creating projects outside Eastern Europe. In 2000, it is expected to expand its activities into Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

www.soros.org/internet

Library Program

Open access to information and knowledge is vital to an open society. In democracies, libraries are charged with providing access to information reflecting various points of view on all imaginable subjects. Under communism, the role of libraries could not have been more different. Libraries stored and preserved information, but only carefully selected material that reflected the official view was made available to library users. Everything considered highly dangerous was stored in special closed collections or destroyed. The Network Library Program's mission is to help libraries overcome their past and transform themselves into truly public, service-oriented centers for their communities.

In 1999, the Library Program continued its Matching Funds Grants Program, which has provided support to 150 projects to improve library automation, training, preservation and access, and services. The Library Program's \$2 million in grants has attracted about \$3 million from third party funders. Projects include a mobile library serving the dispersed population in Mongolia; the collection and preservation of Ugro-Finnish cultural printed material scattered throughout Russia; and various services to imprisoned youth in Lithuania and to disabled adults and children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

Due to the changes of the last ten years, many communities, especially in the provinces, have lost their cultural centers. To fill this gap, the Library Program started the Public Library Development Initiative in 1999, through which public libraries can develop pilot projects to strengthen their position as community and information centers. Twelve pilot projects received support in the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Slovenia. Several of the projects included providing job opportunities for unemployed people, helping them prepare CV's, and coaching them on interviewing techniques. Two projects are transforming public library branches into youth centers for

meetings and discussions, while others provide legal information and offer space to NGOs.

The Library Program also started a new program in 1999 to create Regional Training Centers. Until recently, people had to be sent to Western institutions for training or consultants had to be brought in from abroad. This initiative brings together various efforts existing in a country in order to improve the quality, efficiency, and impact of continuing education for librarians and information specialists. In 1999, the Library Program funded initiatives in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Slovenia; the expertise developed in these programs will be used to assist training initiatives in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Kosovo, and Mongolia.

Another priority area is fellowships. In addition to the Library of Congress/Soros Fellows Program, the Library Program offers fellowships at the City University LIS department, Graz University Library, Oxford University Library, Queens Borough Public Library, Yale University Library, and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' UDT office. The Library Program also works with the Center for Publishing Development on Electronic Information For Libraries Direct and Pushkin Library projects.

www.osi.hu/nlp

Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative

The mission of the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI), is to promote democratic and effective government in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union by supporting research and operational activities in the fields of decentralization, local policy formulation, and the reform of public administration systems. As of 1999, LGI is focusing a larger part of its efforts on in-house policy analysis and research.

LGI engages in six principal areas of activity: building sustainable regional networks of institutions and professionals engaged in policy analysis, training, and advocacy; supporting in-depth policy studies of local government issues; supporting the development of public policy centers in the region; providing technical assistance and consultancy to government agencies implementing change; developing summer courses and textbooks on LGI-related topics; and assisting the national foundations to develop local government, public administration, and public policy programs.

Through these activities, the program seeks to foster the exchange of information and expertise on a regional level so that the experience of reforming a particular transitional country can be utilized in reforms within other countries. LGI activities are also designed to increase knowledge and understanding of the state of subnational governments so that policy decisions can be made on a more informed and professional basis.

The most important networks of institutions supported by the program are the Local Government Information Network (LOGIN), the Network of Institutions and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee), and two regional support centers for training institutions. LOGIN is a joint LGI, Council of Europe, World Bank, USAID, and UNDP project designed to facilitate the regional exchange of practical local government information and experience through the Internet and other means.

NISPAcee is a network of 89 institutions plus additional associate members and observers. Its mission is to improve the quality of public administration education and research in the region and to assist in the development of its member schools and institutes. The two regional support centers are Partners Romania/FPDL and the Moscow Public Science Foundation. The centers disseminate high-quality training programs and other services for local government officials.

LGI's support of policy studies are centered around legislative reform, anticorruption, public participation in decision-making, public services, social policy, local development, and the two most developed areas—fiscal decentralization and ethnic and multicultural policies.

Fiscal decentralization is a priority area for reform because local officials cannot govern effectively without the ability to raise and manage adequate resources. LGI's activities in this area include grants to support policy studies in taxation and fiscal policies, a Central European University/World Bank Institute summer school course on intergovernmental fiscal relations, and participation in a multidonor grant-giving program called the Fiscal Decentralization Initiative.

Managing Multicultural Communities is an in-house project now in its third year of operation. It addresses one of the most divisive issues in the region: governing local communities that contain ethnic minorities. The program includes a database on best practices, a set of textbooks, curriculum development, annotated bibliographies, training for elected Roma leaders, and a summer school course. The program offered emergency support for local governments during the Kosovo crisis.

LGI also supports the development of policy centers and think tanks. The intent is to create stronger, more effective policy communities in the region which could help to shape policy. Meeting this objective would mean increasing participation in public decisions, professionalizing policy development, and improving the public sector.

LGI is active in supporting democratic, legislative, and administrative reform in Montenegro; developing programs within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; and developing a role for itself and the national foundations in countries engaged in the European Union's accession process.

LGI also seeks to expand its reach through other activities. It sponsors a fellowship program through which LGI can strengthen its institutional relationships by developing close professional relationships with policy researchers. It publishes discussion papers, newsletters, and occasional books; it maintains an internet site; and offers a listserve called LGI-Announce, by which important information and announcements can be disseminated.

www.osi.hu/lgi

Media Program

The Kosovo crisis, with its region-wide consequences, imposed new challenges on the Network Media Program as it struggled to help key independent media survive in Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The humanitarian crisis in those countries required an immediate response. In Albania and Macedonia, the countries with the largest influx of refugees, the Media Program assisted in developing and supporting media projects that provided information to refugees through radio and TV programs and the free distribution of newspapers. It also helped re-establish Kosovar media, first in exile and later in Kosovo.

In addition to this project support, the Media Program played an important role in assisting other donors in developing their own policies in support of independent media in the crisis region.

The Roma media support project focused on establishing links among Roma media organizations in the network and encouraging cooperation between Romani

and mainstream media. Romani media from Macedonia, Ukraine, and Hungary received technical assistance support. Since many media organizations, as well as the Romani media themselves, emphasize the need for training, the Media Program supported the initiatives of training institutions in the countries of the Soros foundations network to train Roma journalists and media managers.

As in past years, the Media Program provided assistance and cofunding for various training projects organized and/or supported by national foundations' media programs. For example, working closely with the national foundations, the Program supported the development of community, private, and public radio committed to open society goals in Mongolia, Macedonia (for Romani radio stations), South Africa, Mozambique, and Lesotho.

In 1999, the Program also supported the development of local professional and other nongovernmental organizations that promote free media in their countries—by monitoring the media, publicizing cases of infringement on media freedom, and defending journalists. The Media Program also supported efforts of local and international organizations to develop the legal infrastructure that safeguards progressive developments in this sphere.

The Media Law Program, operated jointly by COLPI and the Media Program, developed training programs for media lawyers in Mongolia, contributed to the debate on a new defamation law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supported the campaign for an access to information law in Bulgaria, worked on the development of new broadcasting legislation in Montenegro, and involved international NGOs in media freedom cases in Hungary.

The Media Program, together with OSI-Brussels and OSI-Washington, D.C., organized fundraising in connection with emergency assistance for media in Russia. It also helped establish a new media board for OSI-Russia and participated in formulating general program strategy.

www.osi.hu/nmp

Public Health Programs

The Network Public Health Programs promote the introduction of modern public health policies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The development of effective public health policies includes efforts to raise public awareness and participation in health issues. The Programs work closely with key policy leaders in the health and social welfare fields, professional organizations, NGOs, media, and other donors to achieve their goals.

Areas of particular concern are the inclusion of marginalized groups into health and social welfare services; the creation of programs addressing the special health needs of these groups; improvements in health equity; the promotion of ethical conduct among health professionals; the adoption of policy making based on research and evidence; and the development of a public health workforce.

The programs below are listed in order of priority. The first ones reflect OSI's current emphasis on supporting public health initiatives. The later ones—Schweitzer Seminars, Salzburg Medical Seminars, Hospital Development Program, and Ultrasound Training Centers—are the last of OSI's earlier programs focusing on medical care. Many of these programs will close by the end of 2000, having contributed to sustaining and improving basic medical care in Central and Eastern Europe during the transition years.

PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES PROGRAM

The Public Health Initiatives Program supports projects that promote the involvement of all sectors of society in the prevention and control of public health problems. Areas of special interest are: public health policy development and development of public health infrastructure, infectious diseases of global concern (TB, STD's, nosocomial infections, HIV/AIDS), women's and reproductive health, aging, health in prisons, as well as medical ethics, and the development of health NGOs. Over 100 grants were awarded during 1999.

In October, OSI and the Harvard School of Medicine published the report, *Global Impact of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB)*, and hosted an international conference of donors concerned with this growing international health problem. Assistance was provided to TB and MDRTB control projects in Russia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

OSI supported a number of training programs for policy makers and professionals in the areas of epidemiology, environmental health, pricing and economics of pharmaceuticals, health statistics, and health care systems management.

OSI actively participated in and provided significant funding for the activities of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, including its Task Force on the STI Epidemic in CEE and NIS, the European Health Communications Network, and the European Observatory for Health Care Reforms. Further collaborative efforts were developed with DfID, USAID, the World Bank, Sida, and other bilateral or multilateral donors.

Institutional grants for health management and public health education went to the Moscow Medical Academy School of Public Health and Health Management, the Kazakh School of Public Health, the State Medical University of Moldova, and the Center for Management Training in Warsaw. The Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry received substantial funding for its work in the reform of the psychiatry in CEE and NIS.

INTERNATIONAL HARM REDUCTION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD) supports the development of pragmatic responses to drug-related problems in Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. IHRD seeks to diminish the individual and social harms associated with drug use—particularly the risk of HIV infection—through innovative measures that emphasize human rights, common sense, and public health. The Program

is a joint initiative of the Network Public Health Programs and The Lindesmith Center.

By providing technical assistance and project funding, IHRD has been instrumental in introducing such life-saving interventions as needle exchanges and methadone maintenance programs. Working through an active collaborative network of professionals in the region, IHRD also supports a wide range of trainings and workshops to build local and regional capacity in drug policy and programming.

IHRD oversaw a sharp increase in activities in 1999. With evidence that HIV infection was being fueled primarily by injection drug use, IHRD quadrupled the number of new grants awarded to needle exchanges and methadone projects between 1998 and 1999. By the end of 1999, almost 90 IHRD-funded projects were operating in 19 countries.

Through the Street Kids Initiative, IHRD provided youth outreach workers from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan with training on drug use and HIV prevention. Another initiative supported programs that will offer training on HIV prevention and drug use for prisoners and prison staff in nine countries.

In the Republic of Georgia, IHRD brought legislators together with drug policy specialists from Eastern Europe and the United States to help formulate national drug policies based on research and the experiences of other countries. Elsewhere, IHRD organized seminars and workshops for a variety of harm reduction stakeholders, including NGO staff, government workers, police officers, and medical personnel.

GERIATRICS & GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM

The collapse of communism precipitated the disintegration of the social safety net, impoverishing a generation of pensioners in many countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The Geriatrics & Gerontology Program seeks to draw attention to the problems of the elderly and to support the development of services that will enable them to live inde-

pendently in their homes and to play an active role in their communities.

In 1999, OSI funded almost 50 projects in 15 countries, including day care centers, home care services, intergenerational self-help groups, hospice services, training for family caregivers and development of medical, nursing, and social work curricula in geriatrics and gerontology. By the end of 1999, 30 social work, medical, and nursing professionals had completed ten-week internship programs at various hospitals and social service organizations in Cleveland, Ohio. The Program sponsored a regional training conference on education in geriatrics and gerontology and, with the International Council for Caring Communities and the UN's Habitat Program, a regional seminar on aging and urban development.

MEDICAL INTERNET PROJECT

The Medical Internet Project promotes the use of modern information technologies in public health and medicine in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Participating national foundations sponsor the development of national health information networks by linking medical libraries, hospitals, and individuals.

In 1999, the Project provided funding for innovative projects in epidemiological data collection, disease surveillance, and web-based medical education in Croatia, Moldova, and Russia. The WHO Regional Office for Europe received a grant to develop and maintain a comprehensive website of resources related to STD surveillance and control in Europe. Grants to individual projects promoting use of electronic information in public health and medicine were awarded in Azerbaijan, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, and Montenegro.

MENTAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Mental Disability Advocacy Program funds organizations working in the region on a broad range of programs that provide services to people with mental dis-

abilities. The programs include community-based day care centers, crisis intervention programs, vocational programs, residential alternatives to long-term institutionalization, specialized foster care, and early intervention programs. The goal is to promote public policies supportive of programs that assure an integrated network of community-based support services for people with mental disabilities.

SCHWEITZER SEMINARS

The Schweitzer Seminars Program was initiated in collaboration with the Albert Schweitzer Institute (ASI) in 1995 in order to provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion of public health topics in Central and Eastern Europe. The seminars, hosted by Soros national foundations and led by faculties of local and foreign experts, offer health professionals, policy makers, NGO representatives, patients, and journalists a range of perspectives on public health issues.

In 1999, five seminars on tuberculosis called attention to the pressing need for improved tuberculosis control programs to meet the threat of multi-drug resistant TB. Other seminar topics included hospital management (Lithuania), medical ethics (Baltic states), cardiovascular disease (Mongolia), and childhood injuries (Central Asian Republics). Two regional conferences were held in Budapest, one on child and adolescent mental health, the other on nursing.

SALZBURG MEDICAL SEMINARS

Salzburg Medical Seminars, organized in collaboration with the American Austrian Foundation, present current Western medical techniques and knowledge to physicians from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The week-long seminars are held in Salzburg and directed by prominent faculty from Cornell University Medical Center, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University Medical Center, Salzburg General Hospital, and other institutions. More than 600 Fellows and 70 faculty members participated in 16 sem-

inars in 1999 on subjects ranging from anesthesiology to Tuberculosis. The seminars, which combined theory with practice through demonstrations at area hospitals, were also recorded as interactive CD-ROMs and distributed to participating medical institutions and libraries. The program is cofunded by the Federal Government of Austria and by the Salzburg local authorities.

HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Hospital Development Program provides donated equipment and supplies to hospitals and selected projects in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, and Kyrgyzstan. The major partner is Carelift International of Philadelphia, which collects equipment and supplies through an extensive network of U.S. hospitals and thoroughly tests and refurbishes equipment before shipment. Recipient hospitals use the donations for general hospital support as well as for special projects such as a Family Practice Medical Program at the Medical University in Moldova and the national TB program in Kyrgyzstan. OSI also supports the REMEDY program of the Albert Schweitzer Institute, which collects unused operating room supplies for distribution.

ULTRASOUND TRAINING CENTERS

The Ultrasound Training Centers Program works to establish high-quality training centers in ultrasound technology and diagnostic imaging. The Program began in 1993 by bringing physicians from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in Philadelphia. The Program has since expanded to establish local training centers in the region equipped with ultrasound machines donated by ACUSON and other manufacturers and staffed with TJU Fellows as faculty. TJU provides continuing educational opportunities for the Fellows. In 1999, new affiliated training centers brought the number of active centers to 17.

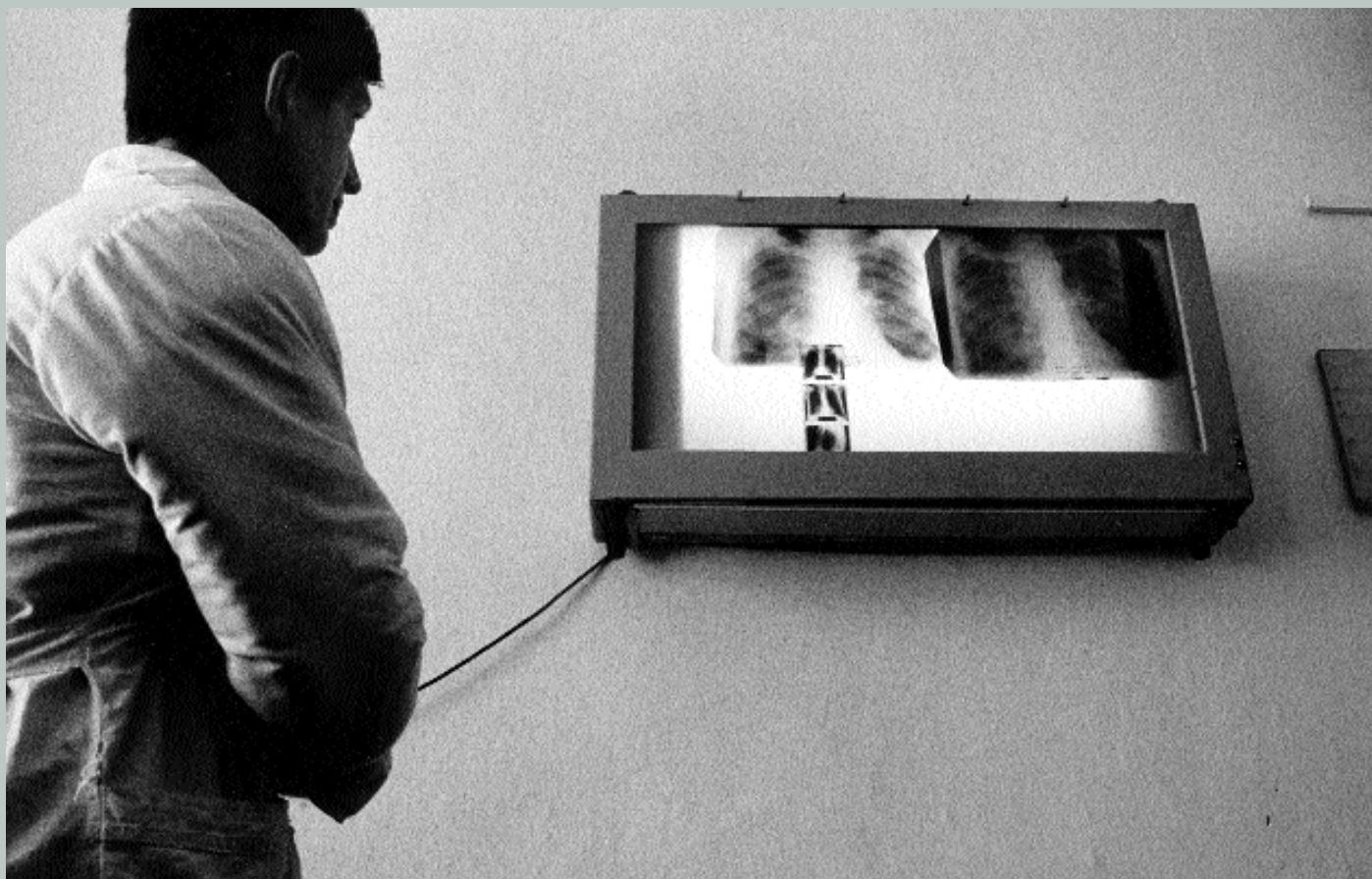
Scholarship Programs

In 1999, open, merit-based competitions generated close to 6,000 applications from citizens of 28 countries for fellowships administered by the Network Scholarship Programs. Expert committees drawn from academic institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere reviewed applications, interviewed semi-finalists, and ultimately awarded more than 1,000 grants for advanced studies in the social sciences and humanities at universities around the world. Grants from the U.S. State Department, matching funds from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, full and partial tuition waivers from host universities, and financial support arranged by the students themselves all served to more than double the \$10 million investment put forward by OSI to promote cross-cultural dialogue and academic achievement through international educational exchange.

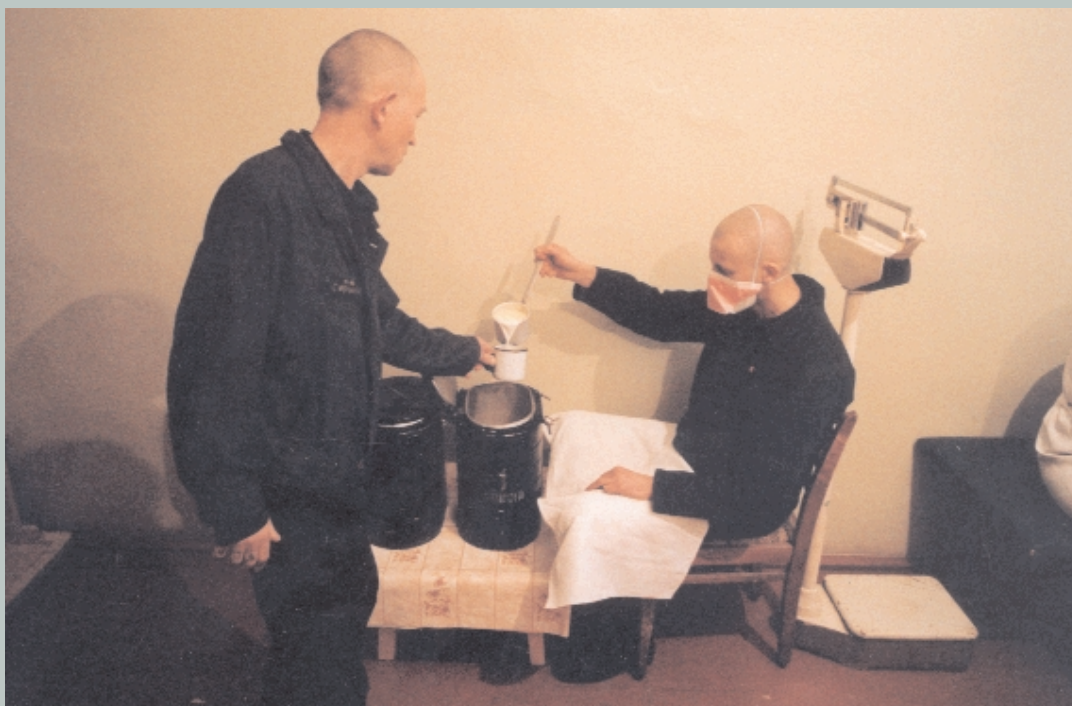
One of the long-term goals of Scholarship Programs is to enhance the teaching of the social sciences and humanities at institutions in participating countries. Grantees of all programs are encouraged to share their expertise and experience with students in their home countries by teaching. Lauri Malksoo, an alumnus of the Muskie/Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Program, finished his LLM at Georgetown University in May 1999. While continuing his studies toward a doctorate at Tartu University in Estonia, Malksoo taught a course last fall entitled “The Creation of the International Criminal Court: From Nuremberg to The Hague.” While working as the national coordinator for the local OHCHR Field Office in Ulaanbataar, Hulan Tsedev, an alumnus of the Human Rights Program at Essex University in the UK, developed a Human Rights law course and textbook for Mongolian law schools.

Universities in the region frequently recruit younger scholars to their faculties, especially in nontraditional fields of study. One such junior faculty member, Nenad Senic, an alumnus of the Undergraduate Exchange Program, recently completed his graduate work at Ljubljana

TUBERCULOSIS IN RUSSIA : STANLEY GREENE



Treating prisoners with TB, Siberia









University, Slovenia, and is now an assistant professor of radio news and the history of journalism. “I am trying to pursue a kind of American way of conducting classes,” he wrote. “The first thing I told my students, who are only three years younger than me, is that I am there also to learn something from them.”

Encouraging grantees to teach in their home countries also involves helping them form intraregional academic networks. Two Faculty Incentive Fellows organized a mini-faculty exchange during the fall term at their home universities. Alexei Lalo, of the European Humanities University (EHU) in Minsk, Belarus, went to Far Eastern State University (FESU) in Vladivostok, Russia, to teach two classes on American literature and multiculturalism. His colleague at FESU, Nikolai Schitov, reciprocated by going to EHU to teach a class on the sociology of deviant behavior. Lalo and Schitov are in the last year of their three-term Faculty Incentive Fellowship at New York University.

www.soros.org/netprog.html

Science Journals Donation Program

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, funding for the provision of scientific materials was drastically reduced throughout the region. In response, OSI began providing scientific journals to libraries in the former Soviet Union, through the Science Journals Donation Program (SJDP).

The Program offers more than 110 titles covering the major scientific disciplines (astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, mathematics, and physics). Through relationships established with scientific publishers, the Program receives substantial discounts on the journals. Funding for the Program is provided on a 50/50 matching basis by SJDP and the national foundations. The journals are sent from the United States to the

foundations, which select the institutions to receive the journals and are responsible for the distribution of the journals to the individual libraries.

During 1999, the Program expanded to countries in Central and Eastern Europe and positioned itself for a transition to electronic journals. A survey of recipient institutions found that 57 percent have Internet connectivity. Thus, in the year 2000, SJDP will offer electronic journals to those with Internet connectivity while continuing to provide print copies to those institutions not yet connected. The journals are the only way a majority of scientists in the region are able to keep abreast of the work of their colleagues in the West. In 2000, the Program continues its work as part of the Center for Publishing Development.

www.soros.org/netprog.html

Women’s Program

Developed through a broad participatory process, the Network Women’s Program promotes the advancement of women’s human rights and education, and supports efforts to prevent trafficking in women and violence against women.

In 1999, 103 women NGO leaders from 21 countries finished the final round of three one-week training sessions in advanced women’s human rights advocacy. The teams selected national women’s human rights strategy plans focusing on discrimination in the labor market, sexual harassment in the workplace, violence against women, and increasing the visibility of women’s human rights. They were also active in translating the manual *Women’s Human Rights Step by Step* into their local languages to be used as a local training tool.

The Women’s Program provided support on an emergency basis to Kosovo refugee relief efforts focused on women and children in cooperation with the Macedonian and Albanian national foundations. The Pro-

gram also supported cross-ethnic dialogues within and between these countries.

In collaboration with the national foundations, the Women's Program developed the 1999 Women's Studies Fellows Program, which sponsored one-month study visits for 36 scholars from the region to well-established gender studies centers in nine countries. Also in 1999, national foundations supported efforts to open pilot gender studies centers/programs in Kosovo, Tajikistan, Moldova, Macedonia, Albania, Azerbaijan, and Romania.

The Program and participating foundations supported a project on breast cancer policy research, in order to identify the incidence of breast cancer nationally and the availability of prevention and treatment services.

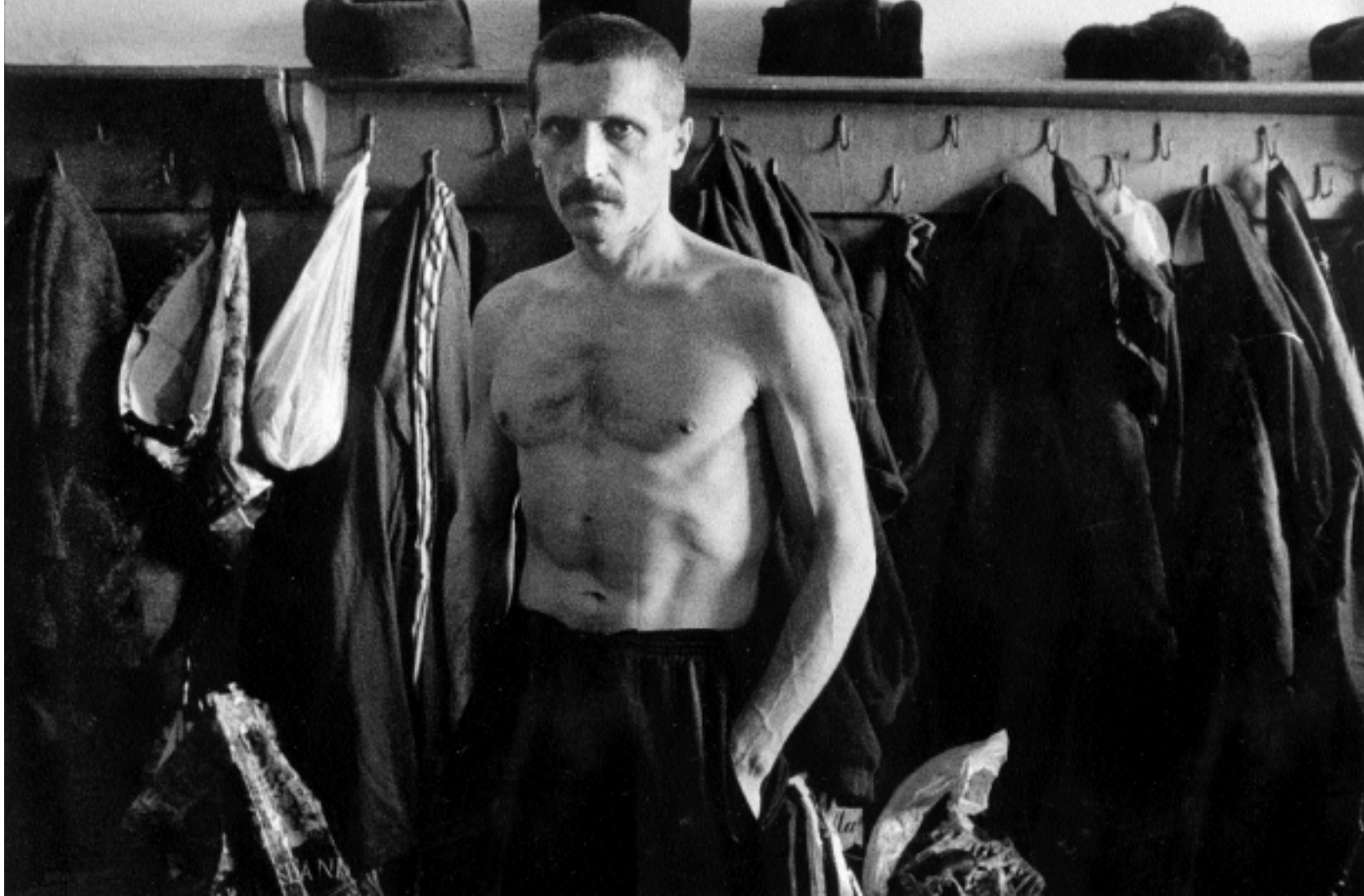
The Women's Program offered training and technical support to multisector country teams (women's NGO activists, criminal and civil justice practitioners, social service providers, and community leaders) to develop sustainable community-coordinated responses to violence against women. In the first half of 1999, the multisector teams worked together on a national project and long-term implementation plan. In July, the Program organized a follow-up seminar in Budapest, where 16 national team representatives identified areas for future work, including police training, services for women, public education, and programs for men.

In 1999, 15 countries participated in the Service Support Exchange Program for Women's NGOs, which allowed experienced NGOs to share their knowledge about violence against women with 29 less experienced organizations. Visiting NGOs learned how to develop a crisis center, set up a hotline, and improve psychological and legal counseling skills. After completing the exchange program, the NGOs were eligible to receive follow-up grants for national projects addressing violence against women.

The Women's Program provided 23 small grants to NGOs working on antitrafficking campaigns in 1999. It also supported three international trainings for NGOs working on trafficking, and funded Molo Songolo, a South African organization working on trafficking, to research the scope of the problem there.

The Global Access Program promotes the visibility and participation of women from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in international forums. From 1997 to 1999, the Program sponsored the participation of 12 Fellows at the summer institutes of the Center for Women's Global Leadership as well as the participation of women at regional events such as the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians (United States), the International Interdisciplinary Congress of Women (Norway), the Conference of Women Leaders of Balkan Countries (Bulgaria), and Writing Women's History and the History of Gender in Countries in Transition (Belarus).

www.soros.org/women



NETWORK PROGRAMS 1999 EXPENDITURES	\$140,653,000
ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAMS	4,793,000
CENTER FOR PUBLISHING DEVELOPMENT	5,818,000
CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS	26,259,000
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL POLICY INSTITUTE	8,074,000
EAST EAST PROGRAM	4,205,000
ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	6,416,000
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS	1,327,000
INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL POLICY	1,833,000
INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM	19,536,000
INTERNATIONAL OSI POLICY FELLOWSHIPS	737,000
INTERNET PROGRAM	6,914,000
LIBRARY PROGRAM	4,323,000
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM INITIATIVE	3,443,000
MEDIA PROGRAM	8,800,000
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS	15,588,000
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS	16,180,000
SCIENCE JOURNALS DONATION PROGRAM	1,874,000
WOMEN'S PROGRAM	4,533,000

NOTE: Scholarship expenditures include U.S. government grants of approximately \$5,700,000.





Tackling Issues of Global Significance

Other initiatives of the Soros foundations network include projects that deal with issues of global significance and programs that benefit countries where no national foundation exists.

Belarusian Initiatives

In 1999, the Soros foundations network continued to support civil society in Belarus through activities based at the national foundations in neighboring countries and through a dedicated Belarus Project established by OSI–Paris.

In 1997, the Belarusian Soros Foundation was forced to close down during a government crackdown on independent media, civil society, and political activity. A new law in 1999 requiring NGOs to reregister continued the Belarusian government’s repression of civil society and gave authorities legal cover to close other organizations not approved of by the government.

Despite these setbacks, the network’s various Belarusian initiatives have done much to support grassroots efforts in many areas, particularly in the preparation of a new generation of leaders for the time when a government more conducive to civil society emerges. The initiatives have also supported grassroots organizing, education, and human rights and civil liberties in Belarus.

Projects that support the preparation of leaders include all forms of professional and academic training. The emphasis is on the medium term, with support going to individuals with the potential to become leaders in a given field within the next 10 to 15 years. Professional training in economics has been supported through the International Center of Privatization, Investment, and Management in Minsk.

Support for grassroots activities has taken the form of small grants to individuals or organizations seeking to have a direct impact on the local level, without creating large bureaucracies. The purpose of these grants is, first and foremost, empowerment. Network grants have supported organizations that have established resource centers and Internet connectivity training programs for local NGOs. Various other third sector and training programs have also received grants.

Education initiatives have included support for the European Humanities University in Minsk and participation in scholarship programs that allow Belarusian

students to pursue a variety of academic studies outside of their country. In 1999, the Network Women’s Program provided awards to Belarusian women to participate in its Human Rights Advanced Leadership Training for Women. The Program also provided a grant to the European Humanities University for a 1999 conference entitled “History and the History of Gender in Countries in Transition.” A new NGO, the Belarusian Foundation for Educational Initiatives–Step by Step, worked to bring democratic practices to early childhood education systems.

In the field of human rights and civil liberties, the OSI–Paris Belarus Project supported organizations engaged in human rights investigation, advocacy, and legal defense at the local, national, and regional levels. Grants and training for independent Belarusian media have helped facilitate the dissemination of accurate information about Belarus both inside and outside the country.

Burma Project

Spring and summer are times of increased tension in Burma. In the middle of 1988, the Burmese military junta brutally cracked down on a spontaneous uprising against its rule. Thousands of innocent civilians, monks, and students—who were at the vanguard of those demonstrating for nonviolent political change—lost their lives or fled into exile. The anniversaries of that violent time also serve as a yearly reminder to the international community that the Burmese people’s struggle for democracy is not yet over.

The biggest single demonstration during that summer was on August 8 (8-8-88), so the Burmese democracy movement is sometimes called “the four eights movement.” For some superstitious Burmese, the convergence last year of “nines”—on September 9, 1999—brought renewed hope for change. Fearing unrest, however, the military closed down Rangoon, the capital city.

Universities, on the other hand, have been mostly shut since 1988 in order to keep students, the perceived source of trouble, from congregating and conspiring.

Somehow, two young British activists managed to enter Burma last summer to stage brief, public demonstrations. Both were arrested and jailed. One was released, the other is still in Burma, serving a 17-year sentence.

Earlier in the spring, Michael Aris, Oxford University professor and husband of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the Burmese Democracy movement, was stricken with cancer. During his illness, world leaders made urgent appeals to the Burmese junta to grant Aris a visa to go to Burma to say goodbye to his wife. The authorities refused. Daw Suu could not leave, for she knows the regime would never allow her to return.

Throughout 1999, Burma came under strong scrutiny and condemnation by the world community. Burma's contested entry two years earlier into the regional grouping known as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, continued to sour relationships between the association and its major Western trading partners, who regularly denounce Burma. The European Union, for example, refuses to attend certain meetings between its members and ASEAN if Burmese officials participate. The World Bank in late 1999 issued a stinging report that, for the first time, clearly blamed Burma's disastrous economy on the incompetence of the regime and its lack of political will to initiate reform. Burma's membership in the International Labor Organization (ILO) was threatened by the results of an investigation into the Burmese junta's prevalent use of forced labor.

In the United States, the justices of the Supreme Court contemplated the constitutionality of the "Massachusetts Burma Law," a secondary boycott that penalizes companies doing business in Burma who also want to do business with Massachusetts. UNOCAL, an American oil company from California, is defending itself against lawsuits challenging its partnership in a joint venture with a Burmese government-controlled company accused of human rights abuses.

The Burma Project continues to support efforts that keep Burma in the public consciousness as well as projects that more directly help Burmese prepare for eventual democratic transition. Realizing that transition to an open society in Burma is inevitable, possibly even imminent, the Project has begun to support more programs that offer sustainable, long-term solutions to the many problems of transition. The Project cosponsored numerous informational roundtables, seminars, and workshops particularly on issues of health and humanitarian aid, the empowerment of women and the role of NGOs working in a closed society. More efforts were made to increase educational and training opportunities for the disenfranchised generation of Burmese youth.

Promoting democratization in the region is perhaps one of the best ways to bring about a sustainable democratic transition in Burma. Accordingly, the Burma Project has begun to help strengthen civil society institutions in the region. At the end of 1999, the Burma Project organized and cosponsored a lively conference entitled, "Transition and Globalization: Comparative Strategies." The conferences cosponsors were the Institute for Security and International Studies of Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, the Jean Jaures Foundation in France, the Olaf Palme International Centre in Sweden, and the Forum for Democratic Leadership of Seoul, South Korea. Among the speakers from around the world were Nobel economist Amartya Sen, Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan, and South African journalist Allister Sparks.

That democracy will come to Burma is not in doubt. As Daw Aung San Suu Kyi remarked recently to the international community:

"Many [of us] are still working for democracy, but under very difficult circumstances. We have not given up our struggle, and we are not going to give up our struggle."

The Burma Project is part of that struggle.

www.soros.org/burma.html

Central Eurasia Project

Central Eurasia grappled with a surge of instability in 1999, that swung along the southern arc from Central Asia to the Southern Caucasus. In Central Asia, the February bombings in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the summer-long hostage crisis in the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan dramatized a threat to democracy apparently more immediate and more compelling than the communist legacies of the past. These terrorist incidents contributed to a debate about the relative vulnerability to such threats of states that have greater or lesser degrees of democracy. In today's Central Asia, it appears that both types of state are at risk. The question remains as to what is the best strategy for fostering strength—through openness and pluralism or through greater control. Tajikistan completed its transition from civil war by holding a series of elections, which were sadly marred by violence and other shortcomings. Nonetheless, a new time of possibility dawned there at year's end.

In the Southern Caucasus, the dominant tone was set by the renewed conflict between Moscow and Chechnya. Would the hostilities spill over into Georgia or Azerbaijan? Would Chechen supporters and refugees place new strains on these states? Fortunately, they did not. As the new millennium arrived, old conflicts remained unresolved. In particular, the Nagorno-Karabakh negotiations seemed close to a resolution in late October when assassinations in the Armenian parliament effectively postponed any decisions.

Regional instability has also been fueled by reliance on underdeveloped natural resources. Oil reserves in and around the Caspian Sea, originally expected to provide an immediate economic boon for the Caucasian and Central Asian nations on the sea's borders, have produced more disappointment than wealth. Current production notwithstanding, the economies of the Southern Caucasus slumped in 1999. Azerbaijan found itself so short of power that its capital, Baku, was forced to ration electricity all winter.

In 1999, the Central Eurasia Project sought to raise

awareness about the complex issues confronting the region with the aim of encouraging the continued development of stability and civil society. Specifically, the Project focused on promoting respect for the rule of law, the free flow of ideas and information, and tolerance for a diverse cultural environment. In carrying out its activities, the Project worked closely with the national foundations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia.

The Central Eurasia Project recognized the interconnectedness of culture, media, and critical thinking by supporting a traveling photography exhibition in cooperation with the Magnum Photos agency, entitled "East of Magnum." The exhibition, featuring 130 photographs, attracted large crowds and much debate in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan.

The Project also sought to broaden its outreach by expanding its website activities, undertaking a comprehensive website redesign in late 1999. Even before the redesign, the site was the most visited of all websites in the Soros foundations network, and had an almost 100 percent increase in visitors during the last quarter of 1999. The redesign aimed to help the Project play a more prominent role in shaping debates on regional affairs. The Project also adopted a new URL website address in 1999, www.eurasianet.org.

In order to foster more informed debate on Central Eurasia-related affairs, the Project hosted over 20 meetings and conferences in both New York and Washington, featuring noted academics, journalists, and other experts. The Open Forum series facilitated a broad exchange of ideas and information on a variety of topics concerning the region. One major initiative by the Project in 1999 was sponsorship, with the Council on Foreign Relations, of a conference in Washington, D.C., "Towards Sustainable Development in the Ferghana Valley." The conference provided a forum for in-depth discussion among government officials, scholars, NGO leaders, and experts on stabilization strategies for Central Asia.

Iran plays a key role in the developments of the countries in Central Eurasia. The changes taking place there have an importance not only for that country but also around the world. The Central Eurasia Project has acted to support greater contacts between Iran and the United States by fostering contacts among writers, publishers, journalists, and scholars. It has supported public education and outreach in the United States to compensate for a lack of understanding of contemporary Iran.

www.eurasianet.org

Forced Migration Projects

The Forced Migration Projects came to a close in 1999 after five years of efforts to promote state responsibility and respect for the human rights of refugees and displaced persons. Focusing mainly on the countries of the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia, the Projects undertook program activities and issued numerous publications on issues such as improving refugee protection, achieving durable solutions for forced migrants, strengthening legal and institutional frameworks relating to noncitizens, building the capacities of NGOs, and promoting the human rights of noncitizens.

In the former Soviet Union, where more than 9 million people have been displaced since 1989, the Projects promoted the development of a network of local NGOs engaged in policy advocacy and the provision of services to forced migrants.

A major focus of the Projects was advocacy efforts designed to ease the potential for ethnic conflict with respect to formerly deported peoples, notably Crimean Tatars and Meskhetian Turks. Another focus was the reform of NGO registration and taxation laws to help create a regulatory environment conducive to NGO activity. The Projects succeeded in promoting cooperative funding from international sources to build the capac-

ity of local NGOs and achieve sustainability for their initiatives. The Projects also encouraged broad engagement by relevant international organizations in addressing the management of displacement in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The conflict in Kosovo added to the millions of people displaced within and outside the countries of the former Yugoslavia. The Projects' Legal Policy Task Force analyzed laws and policies concerning the protection and repatriation of displaced persons and refugees from the former Yugoslavia. The Task Force advocated reform of divisive and discriminatory property laws and citizenship policies.

In the Americas, the Projects collaborated with the Organization of American States, UNHCR, and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights to explore the establishment of a regional response mechanism to deal with future migration and refugee emergencies in Central America and the Caribbean.

The Projects' Refugee Forum merged with the Council on Foreign Relations' Roundtable on Refugee Protection to increase attention to international refugee policy issues among practitioners, policymakers, and researchers. With the closing of the Forced Migration Projects, Director Arthur C. Helton signed on with the Council on Foreign Relations as a Senior Fellow to continue his work on refugee studies and preventive action.

Landmines Project

Landmines remain one of the most devastating consequences of wars affecting individuals and communities around the world. Conflicts in Chechnya and Kosovo witnessed new use of landmines in 1999 even while more than 137 countries had committed themselves to the eradication of these weapons with their acceptance of the 1997 Ottawa Convention, or the Mine Ban Treaty. The recent use of landmines during these and other conflicts is particularly disturbing given the new norm

created by the treaty outlawing the use, production, and transfer of these weapons, and the destruction of stockpiles.

The Soros foundations network launched the Landmines Project in 1997 as a three-year initiative to support nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) around the world involved in banning these weapons and working to return the land to communities. In 1999, the Soros foundations network decided to extend this work through 2001. During its initial 1997–1999 phase, the Landmines Project and its affiliated organizations provided more than \$3.4 million to NGOs spanning the globe from Azerbaijan to Angola. The organizations focused primarily on raising public awareness about the impact of landmines and mobilizing communities to support a worldwide ban of these weapons. While the Landmines Project has not generally provided funds toward projects involving mine clearance and direct victim assistance, many of the organizations supported by the Landmines Project are involved in these aspects of the landmines work.

One of the projects supported by the Soros foundations network has been the innovative Landmine Monitor, a groundbreaking civil society research initiative to determine the state of landmine use and related policies and prohibitions around the world. Release of the first Landmine Monitor report coincided with the First Meeting of States Party to the Mine Ban Treaty in May 1999. The Landmine Monitor reported on the policies of signatory and nonsignatory states to the Mine Ban Treaty to determine advances and setbacks in the efforts to eradicate landmines and to use the findings in consultations with governments and others. With each subsequent year, the Landmine Monitor plans to build on its previous research and maintain a watchful stand on landmine-related developments.

The Soros foundations network also supported the work of organizations in particular regions where the landmines issue had not been at the top of the agenda of the public or policymakers, but where landmines had been used in recent conflicts, where large stockpiles

remained or where military forces had not yet eliminated the weapons from their arsenals.

In Russia and the Caucasus, for example, a variety of public education and media programs were undertaken with this support. In December 1999, NGOs organized in Tbilisi, Georgia, a regional conference on the use of landmines in the Caucasus. The conference built on a historic meeting in Moscow in 1998 involving representatives of governments and NGOs, also supported by the Landmines Project. Both meetings were examples of multinational, multisectoral dialogue and the recognition that such discussions must be undertaken before progress will be made in eliminating landmines from a region.

In the Horn of Africa, the Soros foundation network assisted in the launch of public education campaigns against landmines. Strategic support was also provided in 1999 to national campaigns and NGOs in the former Yugoslavia, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In addition, organizations in the United States received support for their efforts to bring this issue to the American public's attention. The support continued in early 2000 when NGOs organized events in Iowa to try to draw greater attention to the impact of landmines around the world and U.S. policy toward this weapon.

During 2000–2001, the Landmines Project and its affiliated organizations plan to continue support of organizations working to eradicate landmines in these critical regions. The work likely will focus on efforts to ensure implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty by existing signatories and key states that have not signed, such as the United States and Russia. It also will focus on efforts to seek the adherence by nonstate actors and nongovernment military forces to the norms created by the Mine Ban Treaty.

www.soros.org/landmine.html

Project Syndicate

Project Syndicate was established seven years ago by the Privatization Project with the goal of enhancing the independence of the media and strengthening the journalistic, ethical, and business practices of privately owned newspapers in the transition countries. In the years since, it has expanded far from its original regional focus, and is now a truly international forum for a global debate and exchange of ideas on politics, economics, and culture.

Structured as a voluntary global association, Project Syndicate, by the end of 1999, united 61 newspapers in 44 countries in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. The member papers in developed countries pay fees that allow members in less developed economies to participate in Project Syndicate's activities. Substantial growth occurred in 1999, with 18 newspapers joining the association. One focus of increased membership was in Latin America, where new members were acquired in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

In 1999, Project Syndicate published over 100 commentaries, predominantly in its weekly series of columns on politics, economics, and culture. Two distinct monthly commentaries, one by Jeffrey Sachs, the other by Ruediger Dornbusch, provided exclusive insights on world economic developments. In addition, in 1999, Project Syndicate initiated a monthly column on Russian affairs; these columns are written by Western and Russian experts, including former prime minister Sergei Kiriyenko, reform leader Boris Nemtsov, and Russia expert Anders Aslund. At the end of 1999, Project Syndicate also launched a new monthly commentary devoted to Latin American affairs.

The editors-in-chief of Project Syndicate member papers met in May at the annual Editor's Forum in Vienna, organized jointly by Project Syndicate and the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM). The Forum provides an opportunity for the editors of Syndicate papers to discuss the vital issues of the day with leading policymakers. The 1999 forum commemorated the

tenth anniversary of the fall of communism in Central Europe. Among the participants were President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, Chancellor Viktor Klima of Austria, Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary, former Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Poland, former Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko of Russia, Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schüssel of Austria, Minister/President of Saxony Kurt Biedenkopf, Great Britain's Minister for Telecommunications Patricia Hewitt, former U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, Ralf Dahrendorf, Janos Kis, and Adam Michnik.

Project Syndicate is also involved in an array of training programs in postcommunist countries. In 1999, 17 programs aimed at struggling papers in transition countries were conducted under the auspices of Project Syndicate, with 131 journalists from its transition and developing country member papers as participants. Project Syndicate was also involved in a unique effort to encourage journalists covering the economy in transition countries to play a greater role as effective monitors and mediators between government and civil society. Recognizing the need to subject the process of economic policy and business decision making to a sufficiently critical and penetrating analysis in the media of the transition countries, Project Syndicate began, in 1999, to build an international network of Economic Press Clubs. The first club in the network was inaugurated in Romania in June 1999, in the presence of President Emile Constantinescu and other distinguished guests. Economic Press Clubs in other transition countries are planned for 2000 and 2001.

www.project-syndicate.cz

Roma Programs

Racial discrimination is one of the main barriers to full participation in society for all Roma. Such discrimination is a contributing factor to the poor living conditions that many Roma throughout Central and Eastern Europe endure—the slum-like housing, chronic unemployment, poor health, lack of access to public services, segregated schools, and, increasingly, the racially motivated violence that authorities fail to prevent or punish. Asserting the rights of Roma to equal protection under the law, and empowering them to become active members of their communities and the larger society is a top priority for the Soros foundations network.

Many national foundations and network programs support efforts aimed at improving the social, political, and economic situation of Romani populations. These efforts address a range of open society issues, including legal and education reform, media access, youth outreach, and women's empowerment. In addition, four centrally funded OSI grants programs focus on human rights, culture, the development of Roma-led organizations, and political participation. In total, the Soros foundations network spent approximately \$7 million in 1999 on Roma programs.

Education initiatives in 1999 included the Step by Step preschool program, which focused on preparing Romani children for public school through the recruitment and training of Romani teaching assistants, the development of curricula that meet Roma needs, and the involvement of parents and the community in the education process. Other network programs supported English language training for Romani professionals and university students at foreign language schools, and provided tuition grants for undergraduate study at the American University in Bulgaria. In Hungary, the Higher Education Support Program provided support to Romaversitas, an Invisible College elite tutorial program for Romani university students. Ten of the network's foundations coordinated tutoring and mentoring programs for Roma high school and university students, and foundations throughout the region

supported educational services to Romani communities ranging from providing school supplies to scholarships to local antibias seminars.

Network programs and national foundations assisted the development of Romani media through support for Romani language media outlets, start-up media ventures, and established publications as well as the training of Romani journalists. The Roma Publishing Program disseminated translations of texts about the Roma into local Eastern European languages, held Roma book fairs, and maintained an Internet accessible digital archive of Roma-related materials.

Street Children, funded in collaboration with the King Baudoin Foundation and administered by the national foundations, provided food and shelter to impoverished young people. The Debate Program will incorporate Romani students into its debate club activities to improve their debating and critical thinking skills. The national foundations provided vocational and leadership training for Romani youth and supported a variety of Romani youth organizations. The Network Women's Program sought to empower activists for women's rights through an agenda that balanced traditional culture and modern values.

OSI's Human Rights Fund supported a number of important initiatives aimed at asserting Roma rights and opening up access to the political system. Major funding (\$1 million in 1999) went to the European Roma Rights Center (ERRC) for its efforts to provide legal protection for victims of human rights violations and for the monitoring of conditions of the Roma in Europe. The ERRC filed a lawsuit in the Czech Republic in June on behalf of a group of Romani children in the city of Ostrava, charging that the Czech Ministry of Education placed Romani children in special schools for the mentally disabled simply because they were Roma. International OSI Policy Fellow David Canek helped compile evidence for the lawsuit showing that although Romani children made up only 5 percent of Ostrava primary school students, they constituted 50 percent of the special school population. The Czech government acknowl-

edged the disparity, which, according to UN experts, constitutes de facto racial discrimination. If the ERRC wins the case, the government must establish a compensatory educational fund for Romani children and develop a plan to achieve racial balance in Ostrava schools within three years.

OSI's Roma High Culture Program awarded grants for scholarly research on Romani culture, history, and linguistics, and for training the next generation of Roma by Roma.

The Roma Participation Program (RPP) at the Open Society Institute–Budapest provided grants to Romani NGOs, and for the creation of community centers in Romani neighborhoods. RPP also conducted workshops for the centers in human rights, public relations, advocacy, and other issues essential to effective political participation.

In the Czech Republic, RPP grantee organizations such as Romske Culturni Jednota in Rokycany took a leading role in the Usti nad Labem case by coordinating protests against the construction of a ghetto wall that would

have further isolated the Roma community and was emblematic of deliberate efforts to humiliate Roma. In Macedonia during the Kosovo refugee crisis, DROM Kumanovo and Roma Center Skopje helped mobilize volunteers, coordinate relief efforts, monitor the living conditions of Romani refugees in the camps, and arrange for host families to shelter Roma expelled from Kosovo. Prior to this, DROM successfully negotiated with Kumanovo authorities to bring clean drinking water, regular refuse collection, paved roads, and street lighting to Roma living in the ghetto.


In the first half of 2000, two new OSI programs focusing on Roma political empowerment began to take shape. The Roma Political Leadership Program will provide Romani participants with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to compete as candidates in national elections. The Roma Public Access Program will address the widespread lack of basic public services in Romani neighborhoods in many Central and Eastern European cities and towns.

OTHER INITIATIVES 1999 EXPENDITURES	\$12,487,000
BELARUS INITIATIVES	2,149,000
BURMA PROJECT	2,439,000
CENTRAL EURASIA PROJECT	1,139,000
FORCED MIGRATION PROJECTS	1,693,000
LANDMINES PROJECT	1,599,000
PROJECT SYNDICATE	788,000
ROMA PARTICIPATION PROGRAM	1,043,000
OTHER INTERNATIONAL GRANTMAKING	1,637,000





From Brussels to Washington, D.C.

In addition to the national foundations, the Soros foundations network comprises offices in Brussels, Budapest, New York City, Paris, and Washington, D.C. These offices provide administrative, financial, and technical support to the national foundations and also operate independent programs.  In Brussels, Paris, and Washington, D.C., much of the work involves establishing partnerships with other international donor organizations and government aid programs. The offices in New York and Budapest administer network programs, which address specific issues on a regional or network-wide basis. OSI in New York is also the home of a series of programs that focus principally on the United States.

Near "Sniper Alley," downtown Sarajevo, winter 1994 (from the Open Society Archives)

Open Society Institute

The Open Society Institute was established in 1993 to promote the development and maintenance of open societies around the world. OSI does this by supporting an array of activities dealing with educational, social, legal, and health care reform, and by encouraging alternative approaches to complex and controversial issues.

Based in New York City, OSI is a private operating and grantmaking foundation. OSI's activities include network programs, U.S. programs, and other initiatives. Each of these is described in detail in a separate section of this report. OSI assists the other organizations in the Soros foundations network by providing administrative, financial, and technical support.

Network programs administered by OSI include the Children and Youth Programs, which provide young people with a variety of opportunities and resources; the Economic and Business Development Program, which assists small-business entrepreneurs; the English Language Programs, which support English language instruction and the introduction of modern pedagogy; the Internet Program, which supports projects that develop e-mail and Internet services; the Public Health Programs, which help improve health care in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; the Scholarship Programs, which provide academic exchange opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals from Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, and Burma; the Science Journals Donation Program, which enables libraries in the former Soviet Union to obtain up-to-date science journals; and the Women's Program, initiated to support the national foundations in dealing with women's issues. A number of other network programs are based in Hungary, at the Open Society Institute–Budapest. Certain programs are administered from both New York and Budapest.

Programs that focus on the United States include the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture, which seeks and supports effective and humane responses to crime; drug policy reform efforts, including support for The

Lindesmith Center, a drug policy research and education center; the Fellowship Programs, including Individual Project Fellowships for work promoting open society and Community Fellowships for projects to meet the needs of underserved communities; the program on Governance and Public Policy, which works to strengthen the institutions of representative democracy; Medicine as a Profession, a program working to counter the influence of money in health care; OSI–Baltimore, which focuses on critical national urban issues as they are expressed locally in the city of Baltimore; the Program on Law & Society, which seeks to improve the values and performance of the legal profession and the civil justice system; the Project on Death in America, which supports alternative approaches to the care of the dying; Reproductive Health and Rights, which promotes the development of policies and practices to protect women's comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights; the Soros Documentary Fund, which supports films and videos in the U.S. and internationally dealing with significant contemporary human rights, social justice, civil liberties, and freedom of expression issues; and Youth Initiatives, which promote critical thinking skills, self-expression, creativity, civic engagement, and leadership among low-income, disadvantaged youth.

Other programs based in New York are the Central Eurasia Project and the Burma Project.

Finally, OSI also makes funds available to a variety of cultural, educational, and civic institutions and human rights groups. In 1999, a total of \$10,512,000 was provided to such groups through Chairman and Presidential Grants. Among the major grants were: \$500,000 to the Goree Institute in Senegal to support civil society and independent media capacity in Africa; \$450,000 to the International Women's Health Coalition to support projects that protect women's sexual and reproductive health and rights; \$250,000 to Economic Cooperation Foundation to promote peace in the Middle East; \$100,000 to Physicians for Human Rights for general support; \$231,000 to Doctors of the World for general support; \$200,000 to Refugees International for moni-

toring and advocacy concerning global refugee crises; \$166,667 to the Committee to Protect Journalists' emergency response fund; and \$250,000 for a range of activities to the Foundation on InterEthnic Relations. The Institute also provided \$26,850,024 to the Iris Foundation for the benefit of Bard College.

1999 EXPENDITURES

\$85,010,000

Open Society Institute–Brussels

The Open Society Institute–Brussels, established in September 1997, acts as a liaison to facilitate collaboration between the organizations of the Soros foundations network and West European partners, including the various institutions of the European Union (EU), bilateral donors, and nongovernmental organizations.

OSI–Brussels assists the various programs and organizations in the Soros foundations network with their efforts to make contact with donors, and informs partner organizations about the mission, activities, and methods of the network. OSI–Brussels also works to raise awareness in European intergovernmental organizations, governments, and opinion-making circles about issues of concern to the foundations in the network.

In 1999, the numerous activities of OSI–Brussels included support to the national foundations in the ten accession countries in the development of their strategies and activities concerning EU enlargement; involvement in the development of a network of South Eastern European policy institutes in the context of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; and the organization of various campaigns—together with other Brussels-based international NGOs—concerning the EU's funding for human rights and democracy.

1999 EXPENDITURES

\$582,000

Open Society Institute–Budapest

The Open Society Institute–Budapest was established in 1993 to develop and implement programs in the areas of educational, social, and legal reform. OSI–Budapest assists the other organizations in the Soros foundations network by providing administrative, financial, and technical support. OSI–Budapest administers network programs, which address specific issue areas on a network-wide basis. OSI–Budapest also supports a variety of other initiatives throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, with an emphasis on human rights, ethnic and minority issues, civil society, and women's issues. OSI–Budapest is located in the Central European University complex in downtown Budapest, and its programs draw upon the university's resources.

Network programs based at OSI–Budapest include the Center for Publishing Development, which supports book publishing and the development of the publishing industry in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute, which supports the legal reform efforts of the national foundations; the East East Program, which provides a network for the sharing of experience and information among formerly communist countries; the Higher Education Support Program, which promotes the advancement of higher education throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; the Institute for Educational Policy, which helps the network's foundations maximize the impact of their education programs; the Library Program, which supports training for librarians and individual library projects; the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, which promotes democratic and effective government at sub-national levels; and the Media Program, which acts as a consultant for the national foundations and other organizations working on media-related projects. OSI–Budapest also operates the Roma Participation Program, which promotes Romani efforts to strengthen the Romani community. The Arts and Culture Program, administered by OSI–Budapest, is located

in Warsaw. A number of other network programs are based at the Open Society Institute in New York. Some programs are administered from both New York and Budapest.

In addition to the above, OSI–Budapest in 1999 was home to the International OSI Policy Fellowships, presently a program of the Central European University’s Center for Policy Studies. For more information about the Fellowships, see page 108.

1999 EXPENDITURES

\$21,100,000

Open Society Institute–Paris

The Open Society Institute–Paris acts as a liaison and resource to help foster cultural and educational ties between the national foundations and Western European countries, particularly France. OSI–Paris helps match Western European expertise in a variety of fields to requests for assistance from the national foundations. OSI–Paris also serves as a communications center in the effort to make the network and its programs known in Western Europe. Finally, OSI–Paris assists in the administration of scholarships awarded by network programs to Central and Eastern European students studying at Western European institutions.

OSI–Paris also sponsors various educational activities, among which in 1999 was “Neighbors and the Future in Southeastern Europe,” a summer program organized by the French association Transeuropeennes. This program, based on a pilot initiative launched in 1994 by the European Center for Culture, encourages long-term cooperation and democratic dialogue among people opposed to nationalist movements.

In 1999, young people from Albania, Bosnia and Herze-

govina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, and Yugoslavia attended programs in the French cities of Strasbourg and Rennes.

OSI–Paris also supported the monthly Visegrad supplement to four major daily newspapers in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. By facilitating the exchanges of information on cultural, social, political, and economic issues, the supplement encourages intellectual and political ties between the Visegrad countries.

In cooperation with other entities in the Soros foundations network, OSI–Paris coordinates the Belarus Project, which is dedicated to maintaining support for projects funded by the Belarusian Soros Foundation before its forced closure in 1997. For more information on this effort, see page 158.

1999 EXPENDITURES

\$144,000

Open Society Institute–Washington, D.C.

The Open Society Institute’s office in Washington, D.C., represents the Soros foundations network and its affiliated organizations with the U.S. government, Congress, Washington-based international institutions, non-governmental organizations, media, and the diplomatic community. The office serves as a conduit of information and contacts between the global Soros foundations network and the Washington-based international assistance and policy-making communities. The Washington office acts as liaison in developing program cooperation and civil society support between OSI’s network of international foundations and programs and U.S. government agencies as well as other partners.

Working often in coalition with other nongovern-

mental organizations and independent policy centers, the Washington office advocates for broader international support for civil society, human rights, democratic reform, and conflict prevention in countries where OSI foundations or programs operate. When network foundations and associated institutions of civil society, including independent media, come under specific pressure in their own countries, OSI's Washington office assists in their defense.

The Washington office also assists the organizations of the Soros foundations network in developing partnerships to advance reform in countries that are undertaking democratic transitions. The office facilitates contacts for network officers, grantees, and civil society leaders when they visit the U.S. capital, as part of a continuing effort to keep Washington decision-makers informed about developments in transition countries. The office is actively involved in helping develop international partnerships for major civil society and independent media projects, including in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. It produces and distributes *Serbia Watch* and other updates on civil society and democracy issues in transition countries.

A variety of OSI programs are based for their duration or on an interim basis in the Washington office, including most recently the Landmines Project and the start-up of OSI's West Africa programs.

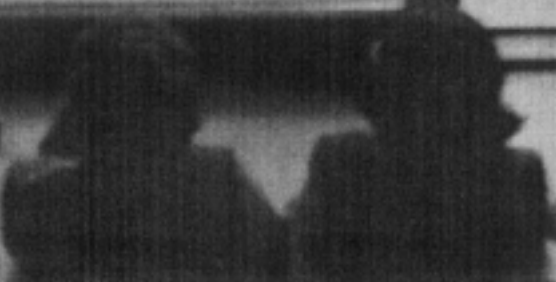
1999 EXPENDITURES

\$748,000

The OSI Ombudsman: In order to provide

maximum transparency about the Soros foundations network's operations and grantmaking, the governing board of the network established the position of OSI Ombudsman in 1998. The role of the ombudsman is to receive complaints, both internal and external, about acts or practices that appear to constitute abuses of authority. In cases where national foundations have not themselves created a similar position, the ombudsman is empowered to review complaints against national foundations. The type of complaints that should be addressed to the ombudsman include rudeness, negligence, invidious political or personal favoritism or bias, dishonesty, or other misfeasance in dealing with grant applicants, partner organizations, or the general public. The ombudsman can be reached at OSI Ombudsman, Open Society Institute—Paris, 38 Rue Beaumarchais, 75011, Paris, France.

Demonstration, Yerevan, Armenia, June 1988 (from the Open Society Archives)



Devoted to Education and Open Society

Over the last 10 years, the Central European University (CEU) has established itself as an internationally recognized institution of post-graduate education in social sciences and humanities. CEU has also pursued its commitment to creating open societies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union by promoting a system of education in which ideas are examined creatively, critically, and comparatively. This commitment to education and open society has made CEU a model international university, constantly respecting the wisdom of the ages while continually renewing itself as the world changes.

CEU entered its second decade of existence in 1999 with a change in leadership. On August 1, 1999, Yehuda Elkana was appointed president and rector and Stefan Messmann took office as academic pro-rector. The university's new leaders continued to advance CEU's development in the areas of academic accreditation, institutional development, and strategic planning.

During the year, CEU pursued further accreditation in the United States through the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. In June, the university was granted candidate for accreditation status, which is the last step before full accreditation. The CEU community is now preparing for a self-study process that will take at least one academic year (2000–2001) and will conclude with the Commission making its final decision.

The university also took strategic steps to complete CEU's institutional growth. In March, the Board of Trustees decided that CEU's first priority should be to continue its development as a comprehensive graduate research university. The board entrusted the rector, in collaboration with the entire CEU community, to search for the means to set up both the departments and programs that are still missing from the university's structure.

CEU also solidified plans to expand its existing programs and to take steps to reach beyond the region in 1999. CEU's Fellowship Program has been a direct means of supporting the university's mission to develop and sustain open societies, democracy, rule of law, free markets, tolerance, and political and cultural pluralism in the region by sponsoring researchers, intellectuals, and activists committed to these values. However, it has also become clear over the last decade that Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are not the only parts of the world experiencing the development of more open societies. In response to this spreading democra-

tization, the university will continue to focus on individuals and organizations in the region while extending the CEU Fellowship Program worldwide in the next academic year, with particular emphasis on students in emerging democracies.

In order to implement CEU's new strategic planning policy aimed at diversifying its sources of funding, the new position of vice president of public affairs and development, based in Budapest, was created in 1999. Working closely with the International Council and with the management of the university, the new vice president, Ildiko Moran, has been successful in ensuring a number of additional fellowships. Some other major fundraising initiatives have been launched and are expected to produce consistent results even before the end of this academic year.

During the 1999–2000 academic year, CEU enrolled 777 students, an increase of more than 60 from the previous year. The majority of students were enrolled in master's degree programs, but an increasing number are entering doctoral programs and doctoral support programs. Students were drawn from nearly 40 countries, including those of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Western Europe, North America, and Asia.

More than 200 professors from 30 countries teach at CEU. Prestigious visiting professors give frequent lectures and seminars at the university, thus giving students access to highly respected academics from top-level institutions in Europe and the United States.

CEU's eight academic departments and two interdisciplinary programs offer Master of Arts (MA) degree programs in Central European history, economics, economy and society, gender studies, human rights, international relations and European studies, medieval studies, nationalism studies, political science, society and politics. Master of Law (LLM) degree programs in comparative constitutional law and international business law and a Master of Science (MS) degree program in environmental sciences and policy are also offered.

CEU has continued to move ahead with the devel-

opment of doctoral studies. In addition to the already accredited doctoral programs in history, legal studies, medieval studies, political science, and sociology, two new Ph.D. programs in philosophy and economics will start with the academic year 2000–2001.

CEU is committed to serve its constituency not only through teaching and research at its two teaching sites in Budapest and Warsaw, but also by promoting and supporting intensive regional cooperation. In order to better adapt the institutional structure of the university to this objective, and in accordance with its "Campaign 2001" strategic plan, the Academic Senate decided in May 1999 to reorganize and to give a higher status to the unit coordinating and implementing outreach activities. The result was the creation of the Special and Extension Programs unit, headed by Sophie Howlett as its dean.

Special and Extension Programs facilitate cooperation between CEU and universities throughout the region, with approximately 1,400 professors a year participating in activities for faculty and curriculum development. These programs, financially supported mainly by the Higher Education Support Program, utilize the pro bono work of CEU professors and staff. On a regular basis, CEU professors meet visiting scholars, host fellows, conduct research workshops, ensure quality control, and engage in a wider debate on these initiatives through the Special and Extension Programs.

OPEN SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Since its establishment in 1995, the Open Society Archives (OSA) has brought together the most significant collection of materials related to the period of Communism and the Cold War and its aftermath in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection includes such ongoing acquisitions as the Records of the Research Institute of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, a periodical collection with more than 4,500 titles in more than 30 languages, and a significant collection of *Samizdat* publications.

In 1999, OSA continued to focus on materials relating to human rights and human rights violations, thus

maintaining a unique collection in this area. One significant step toward this goal was the acquisition of print and audiovisual materials from Physicians for Human Rights that documented the exhumation of mass graves in Serbia. The Archives also acquired Hungarian filmmaker and collector Peter Forgach's 350-title collection of twentieth century home movies—a unique record of domestic and everyday life—together with a complete set of his films, which were inspired by and actually incorporate these home movies.

As an open facility, virtually anyone may apply to use the Archives and its associated noncirculating library. In 1999, the number of researchers grew considerably. During the year, OSA produced 11,340 copies of archive material requested by researchers. About one quarter of the researchers using the Archives' reference services were students from CEU.

OSA saw a tripling of off-site inquiries, most of which came through the Archives' new website that went online in October. Previous OSA websites have gained international recognition from such organizations as CNN and Amnesty International, which have linked their websites to it.

OSA also encourages journalists and researchers to use its resources and services through grants to individuals and organizations. In 1999, the Archives awarded fellowship research grants that covered the costs of travel to and accommodation in Budapest for researchers from around the world. The Archives, through its regional Archival Cooperation Program, cosponsored an Archival Training Program run by St. Petersburg University by providing funds for four lecturers and five participants. The largest grant, \$120,000, went to the Russian State Film and Photo Archive at Krasnogorsk to help the library electronically catalogue its holdings and translate films from Russian into English.

In March 1999, OSA hosted the annual research workshop of the International team of InterPARES (International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems), organized an archival forum on archival automation for archivists and computer experts from

Central and Eastern European countries, and held a two-day seminar and workshop for the Soros foundations network staff on records management.

In 1999, the International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA) was held in Budapest, and OSA marked the occasion by publishing the *Open Society Archives*, which provides a historical overview of the Archives, its holdings, and activities. The book's appendix contains, among other things, a proposal for the establishment of an international repository for documents related to war crimes and human rights violations at the Open Society Archives. The appendix also contains principles and recommendations for a project to help refugees without documents to recover and re-establish their identities by the use of genetic evidence. The project proposal evolved out of OSA's participation earlier in the year in an international project on identity restoration for Kosovo refugees.

During 1999 OSA staged several public exhibitions. "The Commissar Vanishes: Falsified Photographs of the Stalin Era", exhibited original and retouched Soviet photographs from the collection of British art historian David King. "Gulag" was an exhibition about the past and present of Soviet labor camps. "Ten Years After" presented the decade of transition in Central and Eastern Europe through the eyes of 27 photographers from 15 different countries. "Vietnam and Vietnam" contrasted photos of the war in the Western press and the socialist press.

OSA continued to host its annual CEU Summer University management training course for archivists. The 1999 course, "Archival Automation," provided training for 30 mid-level archival managers from 16 countries to help them transform their archives from manual to automated systems.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY 1999 EXPENDITURES \$16,944,000