

member states as well as candidates for membership need to do a better job of living up to EU minority protection standards.

The Network Public Health Programs and OSI's Human Rights Fund awarded a grant to litigate sterilization cases after Ina Zoon's report *On the Margins: Slovakia* identified evidence suggesting the involuntary sterilization of Romani women. The Public Health Programs help teach Romani activists how to monitor health needs in their communities and advocate for pro-Romani policies and practices. The International Harm Reduction (IHRD) program trains and funds Romani activists to establish harm reduction strategies.

In Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia, the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative trains Roma and municipal personnel to eliminate discrimination from their policies and procedures. LGI also trains Romani public servants and municipal advisers in policy planning, management, finance, and improving cooperation and multiethnic governance.

With unemployment running to 90 percent for much of the past decade in most Romani communities, the Economic and Business Development Program is working to increase Romani participation in existing training and technical assistance programs in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. East East projects in Samara and Smolensk brought together Russian-speaking Romani NGOs from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine to build alliances, share experiences, and best practices.

Cultural Identity

The Roma Culture Initiative supports Romani culture and offers the general population access to it in order to build tolerance. The program supports scholarly research on Romani ethnology, history, musicology, and linguistics; the training of young Roma in their language and culture; and the Roma Literary Awards Program honoring artistic achievement in literature.

Soros foundations in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Romania also support Romani cultural activities and Children and Youth Programs include antibias training and activities in their program work. The Network Information Program supports translations of books



about the Roma into local languages by local publishers and the collection and creation of an electronic lexicon of all known dialects of Romany.

The Network Media Program (NMP) supports the establishment and development of Romany language media and encourages networking between Romani media. The NMP also works with mainstream media to improve the accuracy of the image of Roma; to raise the level of tolerance toward Roma; and to increase access for Roma to the mainstream media.



AIDS and Stigma | Eric Gottesman



PORTRAITS OF ETHIOPIANS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A woman whose husband is also infected; a woman who has chosen to serve God to cope with her illness; a man who fell in love with a sex worker. PAGES 98–99: A woman who moved away from a community that shunned her.





Drugs and Harm Reduction | John Ranard

SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO SUFFERING

PAGE 110: Preparing syringes for disposal, Astrakan, Russia.

FACING PAGE, FAR LEFT: Outreach worker and clients, Volgograd, Russia; ABOVE: Sex worker departing after meeting with outreach workers, Volgograd, Russia.

NEAR LEFT: Overdosed drug user being rushed to hospital.

PAGE 116: Home memorial for a heroin user who overdosed.

ted infection (STI) rates continue to rise and the clinical protocols for diagnosis and treatment fail to meet international standards, resulting in a rise in drug-resistant infections. Given its commitment to fighting both TB and HIV, OSI initiated activities to focus on the dual epidemics. Bringing together key members of the TB and HIV communities, the Public Health Programs sponsored the first-ever regional seminar for policymakers and service providers on integrating TB and HIV services.

In the area of TB, OSI continued its active participation in the international Stop TB Partnership and, together with DFID, provided support for the evaluation of the Global TB Drug Facility, which distributes TB drugs to developing countries. OSI and USAID supported a new position for a WHO officer to be placed in the Balkans. Support to Results International, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group, will help build grassroots political support for investment in TB control in the United States and abroad.



In the area of HIV, OSI continued its commitment to AIDS Foundation East-West, an international NGO based in the former Soviet Union dedicated to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The Public Health Programs supported efforts of health professionals to develop evidence-based STI protocols and services through training at the University of Washington and a new technical assistance partnership of the WHO, USAID, and the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections.



Sexual Health

Despite significant investment by a number of bilateral donors in the region to promote reproductive health, the quality of abortion care remains poor due to outdated methods and the lack of attention to patient/provider relations. Also, the growing antiabortion movement has gained significant footholds in Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia, for reasons both religious and nationalistic. In 2002, funding was provided to strengthen local and regional advocacy capacity, especially in countries in the region where abortion rights are being undermined.

ASTRA, a regional network of sexual and reproductive rights and health NGOs, and its affiliates raised awareness among the general public, national officials, the media, intergovernmental organizations, and donors on the threats to sexual health and rights in the region. The Network of East/West Women trained legal advocates in sexual and reproductive health law and policy. Support continued for activities aimed at improving the quality of and access to vital sexual and reproductive health services, including safer abortion methods, cervical cancer screening, and emergency contraception.

Tobacco Control

In 2001, tobacco consumption caused an estimated 700,000 deaths in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2002, the Network Public Health Programs introduced a new tobacco control program that seeks to strengthen the capacity of community-based coalitions to analyze and research the economics of tobacco, assuring access to data and research. OSI sponsored a series of seminars and discussions and “Great Smoke Out” events in six countries. Active partners include the Framework Convention Alliance, a global network of over 100 tobacco-control NGOs, the American Cancer Society, which provides training for OSI grantees from the region, the World Health Organization, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Poland-based Health Promotion Foundation.

2002 EXPENDITURES

\$16,874,000