

Initiatives

Law, Justice, and Human Rights

Public Health

Education, Information, and Media

Other Initiatives




Ending
impunity for
mass crimes

Law, Justice, and Human Rights





OVERVIEW From the treatment of prisoners at Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib to large-scale killing in Darfur, international human rights and humanitarian laws were at the center of global politics and public attention in 2004. In the United States, the Bush administration continued to resist efforts by both the U.S. Supreme Court and the United Nations to subject the war on terror to legal constraints, causing dismay and concern at home and abroad.



Throughout the year, international and hybrid tribunals, that is, tribunals jointly sponsored by the UN and national governments, moved forward in their efforts to hold accountable perpetrators of mass crimes. The International Criminal Court (ICC) pursued investigations into serious crimes at the request of the governments in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the Darfur region of Sudan, systematic killing went unabated as the international community deliberated the fine points of the term “genocide.” But, in late March 2005, the UN Security Council finally referred the Darfur crisis to the ICC, with the United States, a strong opponent of the ICC, abstaining.

The Special Court for Sierra Leone demonstrated the potential of new, “hybrid” criminal justice models that combine domestic and international elements. With limited resources, the court has indicted 13 individuals from three warring factions who “bear the greatest responsibility” for crimes committed during Sierra Leone’s decade-long civil war. The court’s promising start, however, has been jeopardized by the absence of former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who, despite his indictment on 17 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, remained free under a government grant of asylum in Nigeria.

After prolonged delay, Cambodia’s new government ratified a United Nations agreement to establish a hybrid tribunal to try surviving Khmer Rouge leaders. The challenge remained to secure adequate financial resources, attract qualified international and Cambodian staff, and enable sufficient civil society engagement and monitoring to ensure effective prosecutions and fair trials.

Beyond these few, specialized efforts to end impunity for the worst abuses, legal remedies for less exceptional but enduring and pervasive injustices were frequently unavailable or inconsistently applied. In parts of Europe and the former Soviet Union, discrimination and violence against ethnic minorities, women, refugees, and migrants persisted, despite the strengthening of regional norms and growing awareness of the need for improved law enforcement. Throughout Africa and Asia, arbitrary denationalization and de facto statelessness deprived millions of people of their fundamental human rights. From the Ivory Coast to the Congo, the politicization and manipulation of citizenship helped foment marginalization and armed conflict.

The plight of the Roma, who suffer discrimination and poor living conditions throughout Europe, received greater public and policy attention with the launch of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, 2005–2015, with the support of OSI and the World

Bank. The governments of eight Eastern European countries with large Romani populations endorsed the Decade's goals, pledging to ensure Roma equal access to education, housing, employment, and health care.

Women made slow progress in their efforts to achieve equal inclusion in the political, economic, and social lives of their countries. Monitoring revealed gaps in the implementation of equal opportunity laws passed in new EU member countries. In many regions, women's movements continued to develop expertise and strategies to combat gender-based violence, workplace discrimination, and attacks on reproductive rights and marginalized groups such as Romani women.

Across the globe, efforts to fight crime and enhance personal security were hampered by poorly skilled police, the absence of civilian oversight, overincarceration, excessive reliance on pretrial detention, and corruption among all actors in the criminal justice system. These problems were compounded by inefficient and underresourced legal aid systems for the indigent accused.

In many countries, reform was hindered by conditions and practices that corrode the rule of law, such as lack of government transparency, corrupt election campaign financing, and harassment of independent media. Freedom of information legislation, adopted in recent years in parts of Europe and Latin America, has yet to take hold in most of Africa and Asia. The range of threats to free expression—from the subtle and legalistic to brute force—persisted in 2004 as governments in many countries used arbitrary or discriminatory regulatory practices, criminal and civil defamation provisions, financial pressure, and violence to silence citizens and independent media.

The Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations have focused on establishing the rule of law, ensuring justice, and protecting human rights since the early

OSI ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1990s. These efforts had a major influence on the legal reforms in

Central and Eastern Europe that brought accession countries in line with EU criteria.

Fighting to end discrimination against the Roma and women remains an OSI priority, as does protecting the rights of refugees. For over a decade, OSI has supported early humanitarian responses, humane treatment, and protective laws and policies for the tens of millions of refugees and internally displaced people fleeing armed conflict and economic deprivation.

LITIGATION AND ADVOCACY

The **Open Society Justice Initiative** went to court to remedy breaches of human rights and provided legal advice and assistance on issues of racial discrimination, international criminal justice, and freedom of expression. For example, the Justice Initiative's legal memorandum and advocacy efforts helped secure adoption of a new general recommendation on the rights of noncitizens by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. And it filed an amicus brief with the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that international law requires states to investigate and punish racial motivation underlying crimes of violence.

Throughout the year, the Justice Initiative spearheaded litigation before the Nigerian High Court challenging the grant of asylum to former Liberian president Charles Taylor and seeking his transfer for prosecution before the UN-backed Special Court of Sierra Leone. Collaborating with human rights advocates in affected countries, the Justice Initiative provided the International Criminal Court with extensive documentation of war crimes and crimes against humanity. In October, the Justice Initiative and the Coalition for International Justice published a report that highlighted problems with international justice processes in East Timor and Indonesia, and recommended that the United Nations appoint a commission of inquiry to explore possible reforms.

In Cambodia, the Justice Initiative supported the creation of a professional, independent, and competent Extraordinary Chambers to try those most responsible for crimes committed under the Khmer Rouge. These efforts included developing standards for judicial nomination and for the treatment of victims and witnesses, and conducting briefings for the government and human rights groups on the experiences of other hybrid and internationalized courts. The Justice Initiative visited the Darfur region of Sudan and organized NGO meetings on Darfur for the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In Africa, the Justice Initiative worked to secure ratifications for the new African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and launched a project to examine discriminatory laws and practices based on race and/or citizenship status in a dozen African countries. The Justice Initiative also filed a legal challenge with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights against the government of Cameroon's seizure and shutdown of the independent radio station, Freedom FM.

Globally, Justice Initiative projects aimed to promote greater police accountability in Nigeria, Peru, and South Africa; rationalize and reduce pretrial detention in Latvia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, and Ukraine; and broaden access to counsel for indigent defendants in Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, and Mongolia.

The Justice Initiative continued its pioneering advocacy of clinical legal education by holding conferences in Mexico City, Abuja, Nigeria, and Dakar, Senegal; it provided technical assistance to university-based clinics in more than 20 countries and trainings for legal clinicians in Ukraine, Romania, South Africa, and Macedonia. The Justice Initiative established five paralegal offices in Sierra Leone.

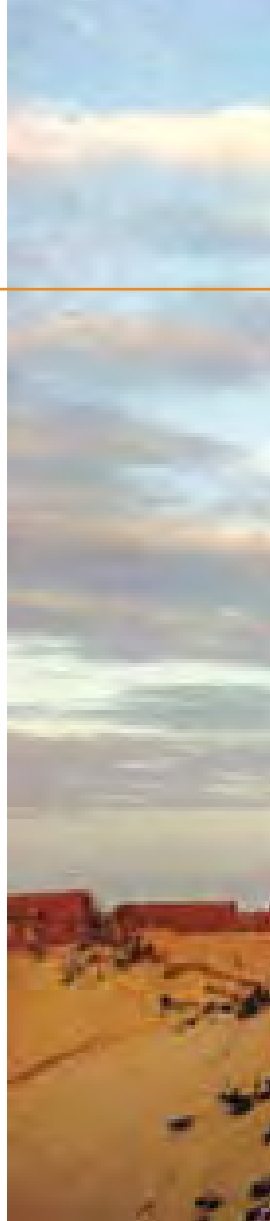
To raise public awareness and assist in advocacy efforts, the Justice Initiative published a handbook to aid anticorruption NGOs in monitoring electoral campaign financing, a monograph exploding popular myths about pretrial detention in Mexico, and a comparative report on freedom of information in Armenia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Peru, and South Africa. Justice Initiative staff published op-eds in the *International Herald Tribune* and other publications on Cambodia, Charles Taylor, Darfur, and the International Criminal Court.

MORE FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

Working in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia, the **Human Rights and Governance Grants Program** provides support to human rights NGOs, civil society watchdog groups, and public policy centers. The aim is to promote accountability, document and challenge rights violations, and enrich policy debates on issues relating to democratic governance.

Human Rights Program grantees submitted complaints to the UN Human Rights Committee challenging death penalty sentences in Tajikistan; took cases of human rights abuses in Chechnya to the European Court of Human Rights; initiated test cases to combat discrimination against Roma in Bulgaria; and monitored conditions in mental health institutions in Estonia.

The Human Rights Program places particular emphasis on protecting the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups. In 2004, the Program continued to support Mental Disability Rights International and the Mental Disability Advocacy Center for documenting human rights violations in closed institutions and litigating on behalf of the mentally disabled. Funding for the European Roma Rights Center and domestic Romani advocacy groups helped challenge discrimination through research and advocacy. The Program also supported the development of strategic litigation capacity with grants to Interights and to the Women's Human Rights Institute.





WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT

The **Network Women's Program** (NWP) works to advance women's human rights, gender equality, and empowerment by supporting groups and activities that promote gender-sensitive policies and practices in Central and Eastern Europe, South Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia.

NWP activities in 2004 focused on promoting equal opportunities in the European Union; supporting women's human rights documentary film efforts; sustaining initiatives to stop gender-based violence; building Romani women's initiatives; developing gender studies and gender-sensitive education; advocating for women's sexual and reproductive rights and health; and establishing women's information and documentation centers.

EONET: Bringing the EU Home, a project developed by NWP in 2004, monitored the status of equal opportunity laws in nine countries and found huge gaps in their implementation. Release of a report on the findings was scheduled to coincide with the first anniversary of these countries' EU accession in spring 2005. As a follow-up to the first Gender Montage documentary film collection released in 2003, NWP, the Institute for Social and Gender Policy in Russia, and 11 Soros foundations or NWP institutional partners launched the second production cycle of documentary and women's advocacy films.

NWP fought violence against women in Central Asia and the Caucasus, conducting a seminar in Tbilisi, Georgia, to help women's NGOs in the region develop skills in running shelters, crisis centers, and programs for batterers. The Program's 16 Days Media Campaign against Gender Violence initiative marked its third year by providing women's groups with new resources for developing media and advocacy campaigns.

Since 1999, the NWP-sponsored Roma Women's Initiative (RWI) has worked to build Romani women's leadership at local, national, and international levels. In 2004, RWI organized a workshop for activists and law students on international instruments for asserting Romani women's rights, supported workshops on gender and development for Romani communities, and created a website and activist directory.

NWP promoted gender studies, including curriculum development and the establishment of networks of scholars, in Central Asia, the Caucasus, South Eastern Europe, and Moldova. Empowering Education, led by the Women's Information and Consultative Center in Ukraine, continued to organize trainings for students, activists, and officials working on women's human rights and gender equality in Afghanistan and nine former Soviet countries.

In collaboration with the Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, NWP advanced international standards for sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly within the European Union. To increase information exchange, the Program continued to support REWIND NET, a network of women's documentation and information centers from 14 countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

INCLUSION AND JUSTICE FOR THE ROMA

Asserting the rights of Roma to equal protection under the law, empowering them to become active participants in their communities and the larger society, and encouraging governments to fight discrimination are top priorities for the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network.

“Yes, then I dragged my husband to the ambulance. . . . the tanks were moving. I crossed the street and rushed to the wounded people who were lying there. Two of them I carried and put beside the road. . . . But the third I failed to save. As I ran towards him, a tank drove into him and crushed him. It happened so close to me that blood spurted in my face. Do you believe, that 12 years passed and I still smell his blood?”

Sona Atayeva, interviewed by Olga Rzayeva about the violent repression of demonstrators in Baku, Azerbaijan, on January 20, 1990. From the Network Women's Program publication, *To Look at Life through Women's Eyes: Women's Oral Histories from the Former Soviet Union*, OSI, 2004.

The Decade of Roma Inclusion, 2005–2015. Soros foundations in the eight participating countries of Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovakia provided support for a variety of Decade-related initiatives to fight discrimination and ensure access to education, housing, employment, and health care.

OSI's **Roma Participation Program** (RPP) helped create websites, meetings, and networks to increase Romani involvement in the Decade's work. The Economic and Business Development Program worked with the World Bank to lead a workshop for government officials on employment strategies for the Roma. The Network Public Health Program provided technical assistance for the development of national strategies to address Romani health.

Activism, Monitoring, and Advocacy. In Slovakia, the Open Society Foundation–Bratislava organized legal and fundraising trainings for Romani NGOs, and launched a program to enhance their institutional development. Efforts to develop Romani media in 2004 included support from the Open Society Institute–Sofia's Roma Program for several Romani newspapers and magazines, the TV channel Roma-Vidin, and nationally broadcast radio programs addressing ethnic issues.

A Romanian-Bulgarian delegation of young Romani advocates, funded by RPP, met with members of the European Commission, the European Parliament, and Brussels-based international human rights NGOs, and participated in the OSCE's "Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Discrimination" conference. In Romania, RPP collaborated with OSI's EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program and the Resource Center for Roma Communities to publish a report on the local implementation of the national strategy for improving Romani conditions.

OSI's Network Women's Program helped prepare Romani women to engage in local and international advocacy through its Roma Women's Initiative (RWI). RWI's Virginité Project, which conducts surveys to assess attitudes about sexuality and women's roles in Romani communities, met to assess lessons learned from its Macedonian, Hungarian, and Serbian projects, and to plan surveys for Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

The E-Riders program of roving consultants provided technology assistance to over 50 Romani civil society groups in Central and South Eastern Europe. The Network Public Health Program worked with local NGOs and national governments to address the gross differences in health status between Roma and the majority population in Central and Eastern Europe.

Economic Development. OSI's Economic and Business Development Program (EBDP) worked in Central and South Eastern Europe to provide Roma with access to credit through microfinance organizations. In Hungary, the Autonómia Foundation program provided loans to Romani entrepreneurs and, with financial support from OSI, established an independent microlending institution, Mikrohitel. In Macedonia, EBDP and the Council of Europe Development Bank expanded the Horizonti microfinance program, which provides microcredit and training to Romani entrepreneurs. The Center for Economic Development, a rural finance program in Romania, used EBDP support to introduce their village banking project to selected Romani villages.

Desegregation and Equal Access to Education. The Roma Participation Program promoted desegregation and equal access to quality education by supporting pilot desegregation and preschool projects and advocacy led by Roma in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia.

The Roma Education Initiative (REI) continued to implement national-level projects in seven Central and South Eastern European countries that provide high quality education in integrated school settings, emphasizing the child-centered, culturally inclusive teaching promoted by OSI. REI also worked to challenge education segregation and promote systemic change by fostering collaboration among parents, communities, Romani NGOs, and local authorities.

In Serbia, with RPP and REI support, the Roma Education Center helped prepare Romani children to attend integrated schools and partnered with other NGOs to draft antidiscrimination measures for the country's national Romani education strategy. In Romania, RPP's desegregation advocacy efforts resulted in the Ministry of Education banning segregation of Romani children within the educational system.

RPP supported desegregation in seven towns across Bulgaria for more than 2,000 schoolchildren. With these students achieving high grades, the desegregation process continued to gain legitimacy and a sense of permanence.

These are a few highlights of OSI's 2004 law, justice, and human rights activities. For more information about the 2004 activities of a particular initiative, visit OSI's website at www.soros.org/initiatives.



Caring for the vulnerable

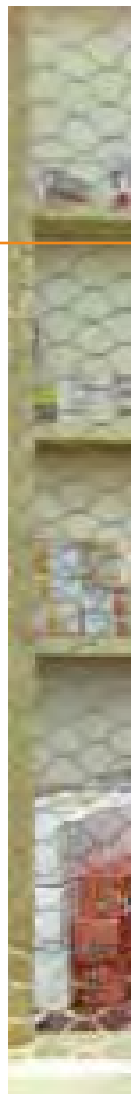
Public Health



OVERVIEW

Health issues received widespread international attention in 2004, with two events in Southeast Asia providing particularly sobering reminders of the difficulties and inequities that characterize global health care access. In July, reports from the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok highlighted worsening HIV/AIDS epidemics in a growing number of countries in Asia and the former Soviet Union and poorer countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This news was followed by the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean at the end of December that killed more than 200,000 and injured countless others in a wide swath from Somalia to Indonesia. Many of the affected nations' health care systems were unable to cope with the flood of victims seeking care for their injuries and protection from potential postdisaster diseases such as cholera.

In the midst of so much despair, the international community's response to both catastrophes has proved generous. Tsunami-relief pledges quickly totaled more than \$3 billion, with substantial contributions from multilateral agencies as well as governments and private citizens around the world. In recent years, innovative financing mechanisms such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) have pledged billions of dollars to fight HIV/AIDS.





Both of these HIV/AIDS initiatives face significant obstacles and have been criticized—often appropriately—for drawbacks related to structure, priorities, and disbursement delays. Yet their very existence has helped to bring other funders into the effort and pressured important players, such as pharmaceutical companies and recalcitrant governments, to cooperate more fully in efforts to treat and care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

The welcome increase in funding to fight HIV/AIDS and other devastating illnesses, such as malaria and TB, can only be useful if it is coordinated, prioritized, and distributed effectively. In 2005, the **Public Health Program** will launch initiatives designed to improve the effectiveness of aid and to help recipients establish viable monitoring and evaluation procedures. This important yet often neglected part of health advocacy and service provision will be among the Program's main priorities as it expands farther into Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Increased monitoring and research will also have an invaluable,





positive effect on OSI's existing health-oriented work, including initiatives addressing discrimination against Roma in Central and Eastern Europe, enhancing the rights of those with mental disabilities, fighting TB in Russia, supporting tobacco control, and building capacity across the entire spectrum of public health services.

In the 1990s, the Open Society Institute focused on improving health care in Central and Eastern Europe, primarily by providing training to thousands of health professionals who had been closed off from advances in their fields.

OSI'S ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

By 2000, the Network Public Health Program had shifted the focus from improving individual health care to promoting the development of public health policies that increase health equity and the access of vulnerable populations to health and social welfare services.

OSI has played a significant role in fighting tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), both in Central and Eastern Europe and globally, by supporting programs that impact policy, mobilize additional resources for TB control, and strengthen the Stop TB Partnership. In Russia, OSI has spent over \$100 million on public health issues, including an MDR-TB treatment model in the country's prisons, HIV/AIDS treatment, mental disability advocacy, and support for schools of public health.

The International Harm Reduction Development (IHRD) program gained recognition for working to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases among drug users by supporting health services and promoting human rights and policy reform.

In 2004, as in previous years, OSI supported HIV treatment advocacy in several countries where discrimination against those living with HIV is rampant. In many nations, especially in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, OSI continued to support HIV prevention and treatment efforts among the most vulnerable and stigmatized populations, including injecting drug users (IDUs), sex workers, and men who have sex with men.

In upcoming years, OSI's Public Health Program plans to emphasize treatment equity and the need to focus on viable HIV prevention strategies. For instance, substitution therapy, a proven method to reduce HIV transmission risk and demand for illicit drugs among IDUs, remains illegal or largely unavailable in many countries. Similarly, optimal palliative care services for those living with HIV/AIDS are often prohibited or highly restricted. Such situations limit individuals' rights to protect themselves from harm or to obtain access to pain relief.

MONITORING HEALTH POLICIES

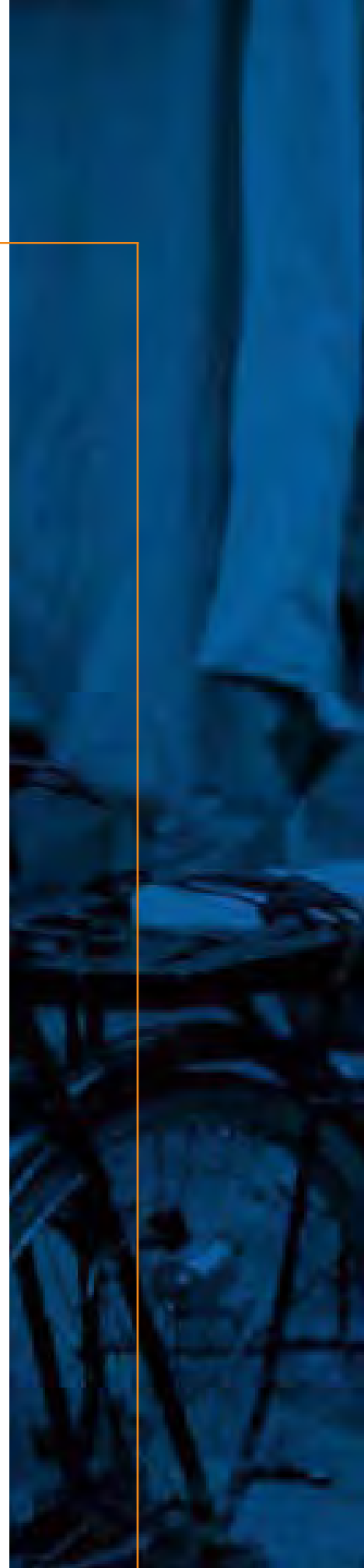
The Public Health Program in 2004 established Public Health Watch, a global initiative to encourage public engagement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of health policies. Public Health Watch began monitoring policies to reduce tuberculosis and TB/HIV coinfection in several of the countries most affected by the two diseases: Bangladesh, Brazil, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Thailand. The initiative will publish analytical reports and support targeted advocacy around report findings at the domestic and international levels. The results are expected to lead to monitoring partnerships in other high-burden countries.

HARM REDUCTION

Harm reduction, which seeks to diminish the individual and social harms associated with drug use, especially the risk of HIV infection, employs a range of services, including needle and syringe exchange, substitution treatment, health education, medical referrals, and social care.

In 2004, IHRD continued to work for the implementation of drug policies that prioritize public health over law enforcement. It increased support for advocacy training for drug users, people living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers, and former prisoners so that they could participate in key international meetings, service delivery efforts, and decision-making bodies. IHRD had its most significant success in 2004 in Russia, where personal possession of all drugs was significantly decriminalized as a result of pressure from affected communities and their advocates.

Working beyond its traditional regions of activity, IHRD supported advocacy and training projects in Thailand to help establish the country's first harm reduction programs and, in China, provided a grant to the



“Historical disregard for the rights of people particularly vulnerable to infection has, in effect, given HIV/AIDS the upper hand—and the belief that the virus would remain within marginalized populations has proved to be not only heartless but incorrect. From every perspective imaginable, all people should be afforded equal access to treatment with the full support of care providers.”

Introduction, *Breaking Down Barriers: Lessons on Providing HIV Treatment to Injection Drug Users*, OSI International Harm Reduction Development report, July 2004

Beijing-based Aizhixing Health Education Institute to educate government and medical professionals on harm reduction.

The program sponsored a satellite meeting at the 2004 International AIDS Conference in partnership with the World Health Organization, and published a report about effective treatment models entitled *Breaking Down Barriers: Lessons on Providing HIV Treatment to Injection Drug Users*.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Public Health Program continued its efforts to fight TB by participating in the Stop TB Partnership and the Millennium Development Project and running MDR-TB control programs in the Russian prison system. After conducting a study to assess progress in TB control, the Public Health Program partnered with the New York-based Treatment Action Group to fund small grants to HIV community-based organizations for work on policy and advocacy to address the copandemics. The Public Health Program also intensified its own advocacy efforts around the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and supported efforts to raise awareness in donor countries and increase participation and decision-making opportunities for people living with these diseases.

OSI and the Social Science Research Council developed a program to promote social science perspectives into evidence-based decision making for the implementation of HIV/AIDS programs. With UNAIDS, OSI provided seed funding for the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS to bring more attention to the special burden that AIDS poses to women.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Issues related to adequate pain management and care of the dying remain poorly addressed by national health systems and health care providers. In 2004, the Palliative Care Initiative focused on policy and advocacy projects in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and South Africa to integrate palliative care into national health care plans and cancer and AIDS control programs. In addition, the Initiative sponsored education programs on improving end-of-life care for professionals across the region.

In Romania, the Initiative's education efforts prompted lawmakers to begin rewriting the laws and regulations governing drug manufacturing, importation, dispensing, and prescribing practices to make crucial opioid analgesics available for patients at home and in hospitals.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Open Society Mental Health Initiative works to ensure that people with mental disabilities can participate in society and be treated as equal citizens with full respect for their human rights. The program provided funding, training, and technical assistance to NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It collaborated with a European consortium to monitor conditions in institutions and the impact of community-based alternatives in both EU member states and accession candidates.

To improve social inclusion, the Initiative and its partners worked to help government officials recognize that the stigma, prejudice, and discrimination faced by people with mental disabilities are deeply rooted and present a major obstacle to achieving positive social change.

ROMANI HEALTH

The Public Health Program worked with local NGOs and national governments to address the persistent differences in health status between Roma and majority populations in targeted countries in Central and Eastern Europe. Six NGOs in Macedonia and Serbia provided Romani communities with information on health and health insurance, documented discriminatory practices in health sectors, and presented findings to national human rights advocates. Grants were also provided to help strengthen the role of Romani health mediators in both countries, as well as in Romania.

The Program was heavily involved in preparation for the Decade of Roma Inclusion, providing technical assistance to national efforts to develop Romani health plans, as specified by the Decade agreement. The Program also sponsored a Roma Health Workshop for representatives from the eight participating governments to discuss national strategies to improve Romani health.

TOBACCO CONTROL

The Tobacco Control Policy Program supported projects in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine in an effort to build the capacity of tobacco control advocates and NGOs, with special emphasis on the economics of tobacco control. The Program's projects brought together advocates and professionals from medicine, public health, economics, politics, and the media to create convincing and comprehensive arguments for tobacco control.



SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS

With technical assistance from the National Abortion Federation and Ipas, an organization working to protect women from unsafe abortions, the Public Health Program completed a four-year initiative that supported institutionalization of the manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) safe abortion technique in seven CEE/fSU countries. One grantee, the Association against Infectious Diseases in Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Republic of Moldova, obtained Ministry of Health support to expand MVA throughout the country.

The Program also combated the growing influence of conservatives in the region to restrict a woman's right to access appropriate health care. In Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia, the Program worked with organizations such as the Center for Reproductive Rights, Catholics for a Free Choice, the Network of East-West Women, and ASTRA to provide training for activists, lawyers, and medical professionals on media relations and advocacy techniques.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER HEALTH

The Promoting Health in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Communities initiative, launched in 2004, is the first initiative in South Eastern Europe to address the needs and concerns of the region's lesbian, gay, and transgender communities. With LGBT support, eight NGOs from Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Romania, and Serbia will conduct activities to document the health status of individuals and to contribute to national and EU-level health policy debates. The initiative also provided assistance to the International Lesbian and Gay Association to work with local partners and conduct similar research activities in Hungary, Romania, and Moldova.

FELLOWSHIPS AND SEMINARS

To build the capacity of public health professionals and institutions, the Public Health Program sponsored bilateral East-West partnerships in 2004 between public health schools and faculties. The University of Debrecen School of Public Health in Hungary, for example, offered fellowships at the Braun School of Public Health in Jerusalem and the College of Health Sciences at the American University of Armenia. The Public Health Program supported the launch of new teaching programs in Albania, Macedonia, and Ukraine.

The Public Health Program began funding projects in 2004 to increase the content and quality of health journalism in the developing world by, among other



activities, providing training to editors and journalists covering health issues; supporting U.S. fellowships for health editors; and funding in-country fellowships on investigative health reporting.

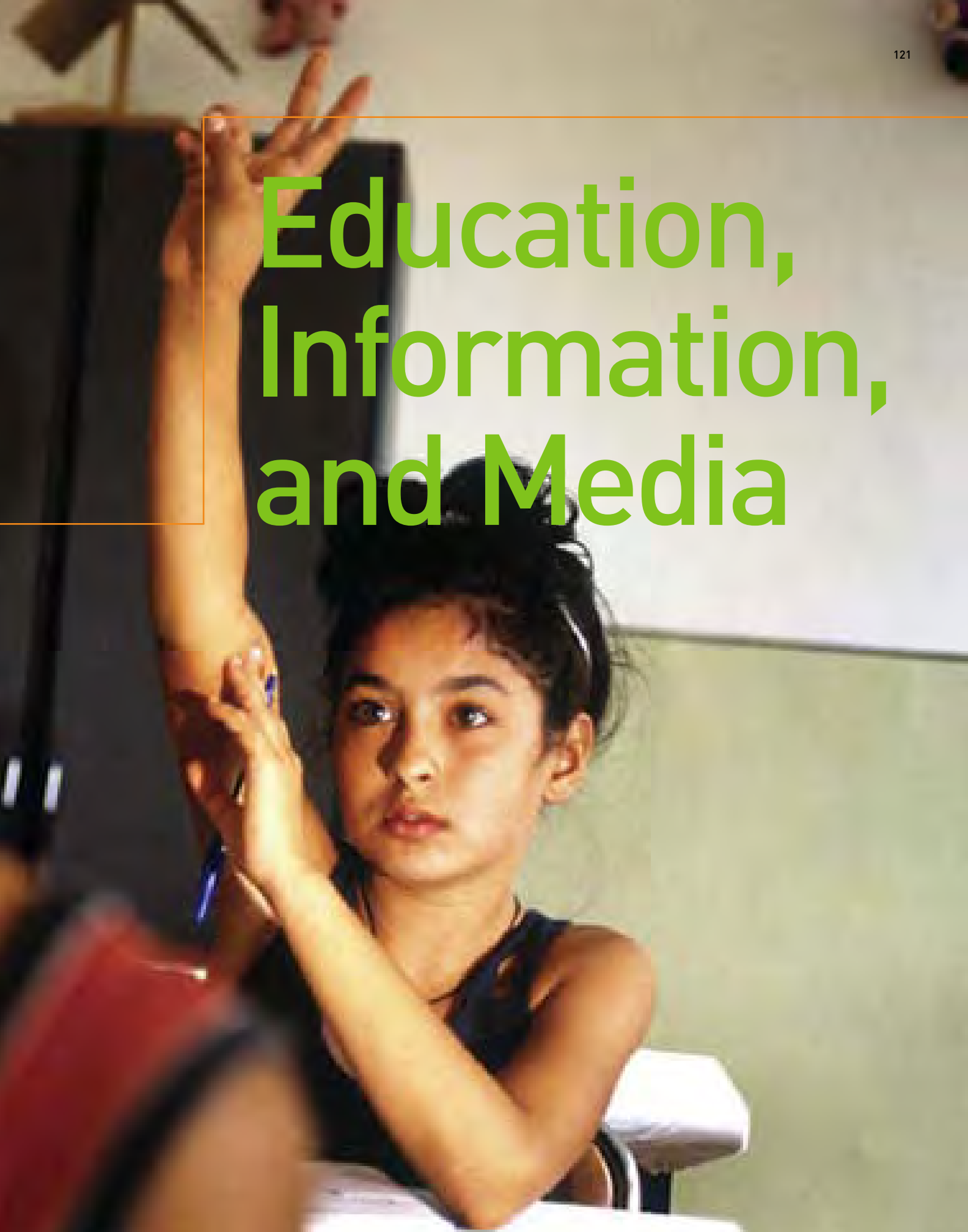
To promote dialogue and policy development, the Public Health Program sponsored nine seminars on topics related to OSI public health priorities. Continued support for the Salzburg Medical Seminars International, organized by the American Austrian Foundation, provided medical education to more than 600 physicians and health care professionals from 27 CEE/FSU countries.

These are a few highlights of the 2004 activities of OSI in public health. For more information about the 2004 activities of a particular initiative, visit OSI's website at www.soros.org/initiatives.



Learning to live
in a democracy

Education, Information, and Media



Education, information, and media are crucial open society issues that OSI and the Soros foundations have pursued from the beginning in an effort to transform closed, state-controlled systems of government.

OSI ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

For over a decade, OSI has funded every possible type of education change, from curriculum reform to teacher training to parent involvement to the repair of decrepit school buildings and the construction of new ones. OSI's education initiatives have improved preschool, primary, and secondary education, universities, nonformal learning programs, and education NGOs working to increase quality and equity. Two internationally recognized initiatives, the Step by Step early childhood education program and the Debate Program, are now active in dozens of countries, having already taught millions of Step by Step students and more than 130,000 debate students.

Extensive OSI scholarship programs have helped support individual students from every network country. Other programs have provided local and international training of educators, as well as technical and policy support for systemic education reform and cross-border collaboration.

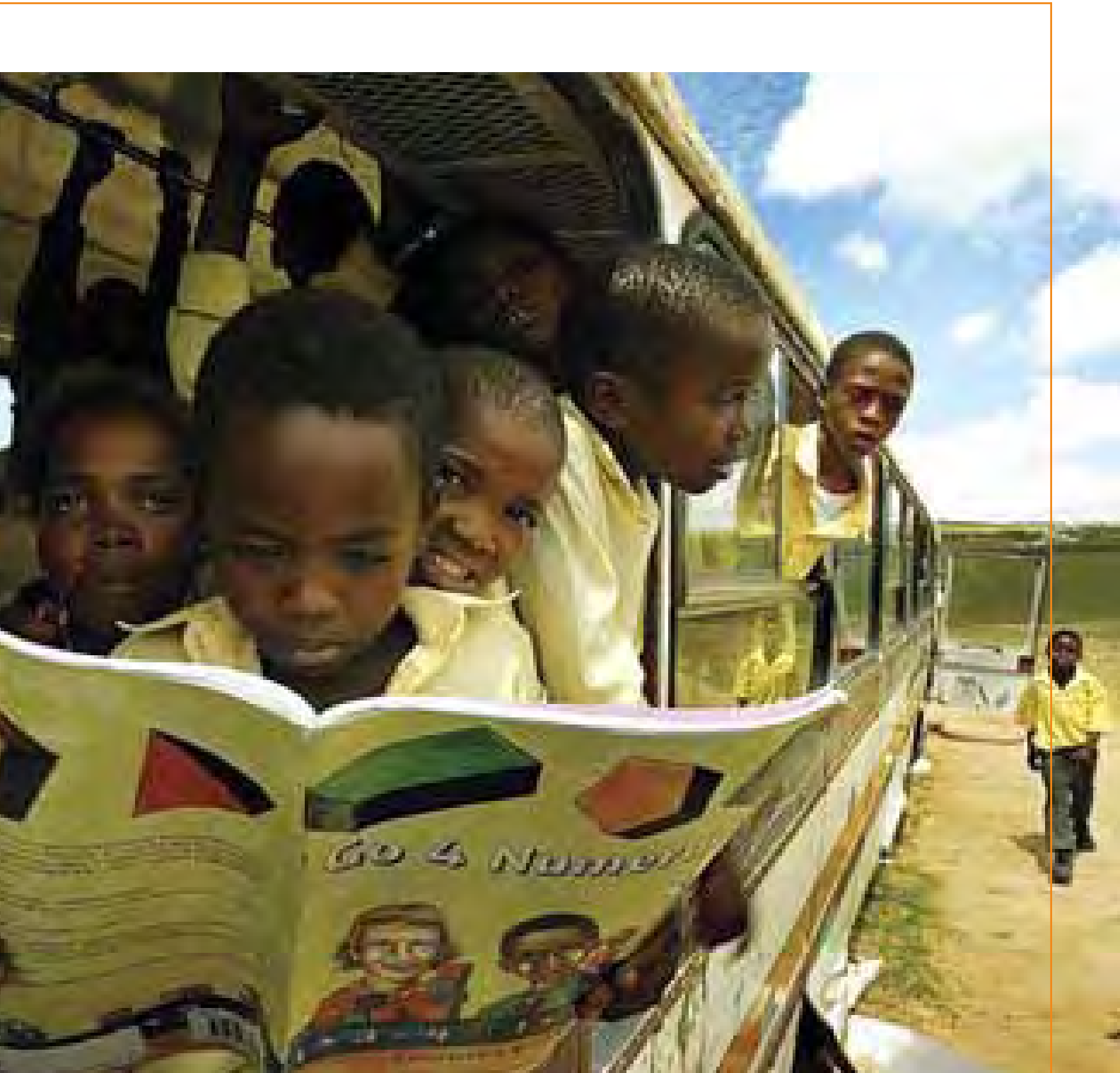
Central European University, founded by George Soros in 1991, has become an international center of research and policy analysis that promotes the principles of open, democratic societies while preparing its graduates to serve their countries as scholars and leaders. Soros gave CEU, which has educated nearly 5,000 mostly scholarship students, a \$250 million endowment in 2001.

OSI assumed a leadership role in providing civil society with greater access to electronic communications, especially during the early years of transition in Central and Eastern Europe. The Media Program has helped independent media survive repression and conflicts, such as the wars in the former Yugoslavia, and supported community radio in Africa as a way to educate and involve people in democratic decision making.

Education

The goal of the **Network Children and Youth Programs** is to bring innovative approaches to existing educational structures that affect the development of





Bus converted into primary school classroom, South Africa

children and adolescents. The priority programs are Step by Step, Debate, and Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking, all three of which emphasize democratic principles and promote the development of the individual child's full potential.

Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking in 2004 helped 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, cooperative learning, and democratic participation. The project trained teachers and teacher educators in 25 countries, and worked closely with staff at teacher training universities and retraining institutes, as well as at ministries and education agencies.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES IN SCHOOL

The **Step by Step** program, working in preschools and primary schools, promoted child-centered teaching methods and community and family involvement, and equal access for children of minority families, children with disabilities, Roma and refugees, and families living in poverty. The Program encouraged children to develop critical thinking skills and make their own choices in order to teach them democratic principles and practices.

Step by Step celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2004 with a multicountry research project on the effectiveness of its methodology and a conference entitled "Decade of Change: Stepping into the Future." In the last 10 years, Step by Step organizations trained over 150,000 teachers and specialists in 30 countries, serving over a million children and their families. The International Step by Step Association links over 220,000 early childhood professionals into an advocacy network, promoting Step by Step's philosophy, training, and technical assistance internationally. In addition to OSI, Step by Step partners include local governments, national ministries, teacher training institutions, and international organizations, including the European Union, USAID, the World Bank, and UNICEF.

FREE AND OPEN DISCUSSION

Participants in the **Network Debate Program** in secondary schools and universities examined issues affecting their lives and communities, in the process learning that free and open discussion is essential to the establishment and preservation of open societies. Since 1995, more than 100,000 secondary students, 30,000 university students, and 20,000 teachers have participated in the Debate Program, which is active in 36 countries.

In 2004, the Debate Program, which publishes debate resource books and materials, continued to expand, with new programs starting in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Israel, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. It also continued to work with Romani leaders throughout Central and South Eastern Europe; developed a guide to be translated into Farsi on organizing radio debates and forums in Afghanistan; and conducted trainings on advocacy and election campaigns with Iraqi students in Jordan.

The 2004 International Youth Forum, held in Estonia, debated the resolution: “It is better to focus on a harm reduction strategy than a law enforcement strategy when dealing with drug abuse.” To develop sustainable program activities in each country, the International Debate Education Association helps with fundraising, organizing events, and developing further international contacts.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

The **Education Support Program** (ESP) furthered open society values in education, including accountability in governance and management and equal access for minorities and at-risk youth. With Soros foundations spinning off their education programs, ESP has played an increasing role in initiating and establishing partnerships and networks.

In 2004, ESP provided direct support to education programs in Central Asian and South Eastern European countries and in Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine. ESP also began exploratory discussions on possible partnerships in Pakistan.

In South Eastern Europe, ESP oversaw the editing of the book *Learning to Change: The Experience of Transforming Education in South East Europe*, a collection of first-person stories by education specialists about the changes in education during 15 years of armed conflict, political transition, and increasing openness. The book will be published in 2005 by Central European University Press.

ESP organized a fact-finding mission on transparency and corruption in Central Asia with the International Institute for Education Planning/UNESCO; conducted research on improving the public communication of education reform issues with the South East Europe Education Cooperation Network; and, with the Network of Education Policy Centers, launched two monitoring initiatives in 2004, one on early dropouts and the other on private tutoring.

RE:FINE (Resourcing Education Fund for Innovations and Networking), a grant fund established by ESP in 2004, provided eight grants to institutions for projects that further open society goals in education. ESP and OSI’s Children and

Youth Programs continued to implement the Roma Education Initiative, which, among other activities, funded programs for equal access to quality education in Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

The **International Higher Education Support Program (HESP)** promoted the advancement of higher education within the humanities and social sciences in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia. Institutions supported by HESP have progressive leadership, transparent governance, and an innovative educational agenda, and engage professionals open to progressive teaching and learning methodologies.

In 2004, HESP worked to make its network institutions sustainable and to establish them and Central European University as resources for strengthening state universities. It launched the Academic Fellowship Program to help selected university departments become platforms for innovation and reform, and to promote the return, retention, and professional development of young, promising academics in these departments.

HESP continued to promote gender studies as an academic discipline in Central and Eastern Europe; help schools of social work in the Caucasus and Central Asia deliver quality, cost-effective programs; and provide support to Roma for university studies.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The **English Language Program (ELP)**, which includes the Soros Professional English Language Teaching program (SPELT), helped the countries of the Soros foundations network prepare individuals and groups for a world in which English is increasingly necessary for international communication in professional and academic fields.


In 2004, the Program continued its scheduled process of concluding or spinning off its activities as independent organizations. ELP activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Uzbekistan concluded in 2004, and the entire program is scheduled for completion at the end of the 2004–2005 academic year.

An academic summer school in Kyrgyzstan, sponsored for a second year with OSI's Scholarship Programs, improved scholarship recipients' writing skills before beginning studies at English language universities.





Girls' primary school classroom, Afghanistan

A woman in a white lab coat stands in a classroom, looking at a laptop on a stand. The room is filled with desks and chairs, and a large mural of a classical building is on the wall. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, yellow font.

“Democratic process in education is also high on the agenda, though progress is neither swift nor straightforward. A large gap still exists between the rhetoric of democracy and the reality of behavior inherited from a past in which the authority of the school leader and teacher was rarely questioned.”

Introduction, Learning to Change: The Experience of Transforming Education in South East Europe, editor: Terrice Bassler, director, OSI's Education Support Program in Ljubljana, CEU Press, to be published in 2005

“Cooperation depends on communication. Babel’s confusion of tongues illustrates what modern man often fails to realize: the real divisions among men are not racial or physical or geographic, but linguistic I am eager to learn as many languages as necessary to understand other cultures and ways of thinking.”

Natasha Velikodnaya, Kyrgyzstan, Soros Supplementary Grant recipient, “The Tower of Babel,” *ScholarForum*, the journal of OSI’s Network Scholarship Programs, fall 2004

Working with a U.S. State Department senior fellow at Azerbaijan University, a SPELT trainer designed and taught a new academic writing and reading curriculum to about 50 teachers. Teacher training efforts in Tajikistan received state support with two state retraining institutes hosting English language teacher training courses run by 15 local trainers.

The School for International Training's summer master's program accepted two ELP-trained teachers from Haiti, where ELP used U.S. State Department funding to organize its third consecutive TESOL methodology course. FocusEd, an international association of quality, nonprofit language schools established by ELP's network of over 20 Soros English/foreign language schools, began work on its e-learning program for use in multinational English language education and training courses.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The **Network Scholarship Programs** mobilized international resources to support fellowships, scholarships, and related activities that empower students and scholars to improve the social, political, and intellectual environments of their home communities.

To foster a shared sense of community and build academic and professional networks among program participants, the Scholarship Programs produced a bi-annual journal (*ScholarForum*), held orientations, and organized intensive pre-academic summer programs, annual mid-year conferences, and alumni gatherings. A 2004 conference in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai, for example, brought together grantees of the Supplementary Grant Program–Burma. Almost 80 Burmese students and alumni representing eight different ethnicities shared their academic and work experiences in business administration, gender and development, public health, human rights, engineering, and economics.

In addition to organizing events to develop bonds between its fellows and alumni, the Scholarship Programs also continued its unique approach to international academic exchange through its Pre-Academic Summer Program. Designed by the Scholarship Programs and the Soros Professional English Language Teaching program, the summer program provides intensive four-week advanced academic language training for grantees preparing to study in the United States or the United Kingdom. In 2004, 64 students and faculty participated in trainings held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

THE OPEN SOCIETY UNIVERSITY

Central European University continued to pursue its mission of contributing to the development of open societies, not only in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, but also in other emerging democracies worldwide, by promoting academic excellence—including high level research—and civic commitment.

Education authorities in the United States and Hungary furthered CEU's international recognition as the U.S. Middle States Commission on Higher Education granted accreditation to the University and the Hungarian Parliament adopted legislation recognizing CEU as a private Hungarian university.

During the 2004–2005 academic year, CEU received applications from a record 91 countries and enrolled 967 students from more than 64 nations. Approximately 60 percent are enrolled in master's degree programs, with the remainder entering doctoral study programs.

Information and Media

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The **Information Program** in 2004 enhanced access to information resources and tools for key open society constituencies and disadvantaged groups, primarily in less developed parts of the world. It also used information and communications technology to bolster global networks among civil society groups, and to promote democracy, civic engagement, and government transparency through effective monitoring, analysis, and advocacy on open society issues.

The Program funded iLaw Eurasia, a major training event on Internet and telecommunications policy for civil society and government decision makers from 18 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and supported projects to protect communications and data privacy in Southern Africa and South Eastern Europe. With OSI support, the American Civil Liberties Union, Privacy International, and Statewatch launched a monitoring project to examine how “policy laundering”—the practice of using international policy forums to push policies that could never win direct approval through regular domestic policy processes—affects privacy and civil liberties.

The Program pursued reform of inequitable intellectual property (IP) rules and support for new open frameworks for the production of information-based public



goods. Grantees included IP Watch, the first global watchdog initiative to uncover private sector influence on intellectual property rights policymaking. The Electronic Information for Libraries project, with Program support, provides libraries in almost 50 countries with low-cost access to thousands of premium business, social sciences, humanities, science, and technology journals.

The Program provided technology support to NGOs through training programs and its pioneering E-Riders, roving technology consultants who worked with hundreds of civil society organizations in South Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Southern Africa. With the Next Page Foundation, the Program provided grants for the translation into Eastern European languages of several hundred books on issues such as Islam and politics, globalization, and human rights.

PROFESSIONAL AND INDEPENDENT MEDIA

Support for more equitable media freedom standards remained the focus of the **Network Media Program**, with support for the implementation of new media laws an increasingly important priority.

In 2004, the Media Program assisted the Southeast European Network for Professionalization of the Media, which studied media ownership trends in 18 countries and plans advocacy efforts to combat the increased monopolization of ownership. With the EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program (EUMAP), the Program continued work on a project examining the transformation of state media into public service media in South Eastern Europe. The project assesses the regulations and policies established to secure the independence of TV in over 20 countries across Europe.

In Southeast Asia, the Program provided support for information efforts on defamation laws and other measures used to imprison and intimidate journalists, while in the Middle East it helped build the capacity of local groups to monitor and combat media freedom violations. The Program also helped develop self-regulatory bodies, such as a media trade union in Ukraine, and assisted efforts to train and educate journalists and media professionals in South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Russia, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Peru, and Thailand.

ARCHIVES AND PUBLISHING

The **Open Society Archives (OSA)** in 2004 digitalized its collection of background reports of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the records of several human rights organizations, the photo archive of the Hungarian Soros foundation, and the records of Soros foundations in Latvia and Serbia. OSA shared its professional expertise and resources by providing training programs on the development and maintenance of professional archive facilities for NGOs in several different countries. Public events sponsored by OSA in 2004 included a human rights documentary film festival, an exhibit reconstructing two official Hungarian Auschwitz exhibitions organized during communist rule, and an exhibit called “Divide” on the physical barrier built by the Israeli government to prevent uncontrolled access by Palestinians.

Central European University Press continued to publish titles that reflect the values and intellectual strength of the university, addressing topics such as the philosophy and practices of an open society, legal studies, nationalism, human rights, conflict resolution, open media, gender studies, economics, medieval studies, literature, and international relations. New titles published in 2004 included *Against Their Will* by Pavel Polian, a comprehensive survey of forced population movements during the Soviet regime, and *The Demise of Yugoslavia*, a personal account by Croatian president Stipe Mesic. CEU Press also used its distribution channels to bring a growing number of OSI and Soros network publications to a wider readership.

These are a few highlights of the 2004 activities of OSI in education, information, and media. For more information about the 2004 activities of a particular initiative, visit OSI's website at www.soros.org/initiatives.

A group of young boys in white shirts and black pants are practicing dance or movement in a studio. They are captured in various poses, some with arms extended, others with hands on hips. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a wooden floor. The text "Nurturing creativity and leadership" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Nurturing creativity and leadership



Other Initiatives

ARTS AND CULTURE

The **Arts and Culture Network Program** worked in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to foster cross-border cooperation and intercultural dialogue. The Program provided funding on a competitive basis to 48 artistic and/or cultural collaborations among individuals and organizations from three or more countries.

The Arts and Culture Network Program started two long-term initiatives for the Caucasus and Central Asia called the Cultural Policy Compendium and Intercultural Dialogue. The Cultural Policy Compendium initiative will sponsor analyses of national cultural policies to provide the basis for new policies to guide cultural development.

Other initiatives and events supported by the Program included the ninth International Festival of Contemporary Music “Ilkhom-XX” and the Central Asian Theater Meeting, both held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The Program also supported the compilation of DVD collections of Central Asian documentaries and feature films from the Soviet postcommunist periods, and provided support for cultural professionals in Turkmenistan to participate in events, workshops, and seminars.

CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIPS

The **East East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders** supported 200 international exchanges that enabled civil society actors to build and strengthen resources and expertise; share best practices and lessons learned; collaborate on innovative solutions to common challenges; and create or strengthen international advocacy coalitions.

The Program helped Soros foundations in Poland and Moldova promote relations between civil society groups in new EU member states and neighboring non-EU countries. In Ukraine, the Program and the International Renaissance Foundation piloted an initiative to analyze transparency in government expenditures and to promote civil society participation in government decision making. The East East Program supported exchanges to help modernize police training and protect the victims of domestic violence in Mongolia.

The Program’s institutional partner in Slovenia, the Peace Institute, began an initiative to empower minorities in the media in multicultural societies, and continued its work on migration and citizenship issues and the greater inclusion of

marginalized groups. Efforts in Turkey increased international collaboration for Turkish civil society organizations; one program conducted a comparative analysis of political and social transformation in Spain and Turkey.

The Southeast Asia: Beyond Borders Program, a collaboration between the East East Program and OSI's Southeast Asia Initiative, worked on an approach to development in the Mekong subregion that engaged local communities, and a program to enhance the leadership skills of young people working against human trafficking.

MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW IN EUROPE

The **EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program** (EUMAP), which monitors the development of human rights and rule of law standards and policies in Europe, has published reports on minority protection, corruption and anticorruption policies, and judicial independence and capacity. Its reports have increased civil society participation in articulating the EU's common democratic values and advanced compliance with human rights standards.

In 2004, EUMAP produced a series of four policy papers on the situation of Muslims in the UK, looking at employment, education, the criminal justice system, and equality and community cohesion. The papers were presented to UK government representatives, leaders of the Muslim community, and human rights activists with recommendations for improving government policies toward the Muslim community. It also produced a report on local-level implementation of the Romanian government's strategy for Roma.

EUMAP carried out two Europe-focused monitoring projects: Access to Education and Employment for People with Intellectual Disabilities, and TV Across Europe: Regulation, Policy, and Independence. Both projects cover new EU member states from Central and Eastern Europe, several older EU member states, and aspiring EU states such as Croatia and Romania.

EUMAP collaborated with OSI's Mental Health Initiative on the Access to Education and Employment for People with Intellectual Disabilities project and with the Network Media Program on the TV Across Europe project, which examines the political and economic forces that influence European broadcast media systems. Both projects will produce reports in 2005, followed by advocacy campaigns in the countries monitored and across the European Union.

An upcoming project focuses on Romani communities in the eight countries included in the Decade of Roma Inclusion. A report will assess the situation and needs of Romani children in the education system.

POLICY FELLOWSHIPS

The **International Policy Fellows** (IPF) program, which supports policy research by open society leaders in network countries and elsewhere, has funded some 40-50 fellowships per year since the program's inception in 1998. The program counters "brain drain" by providing policy researchers and advocates with resources and networks that allow them to remain in their home countries.

Policy fellow Fauzia Yazdani's groundbreaking 2004 study on the impact of Pakistan's new 33 percent quota for women in local government paved the way for national policies promoting increased political participation for women at local levels. Yazdani's research was used by UNDP to develop new programs and helped her become a featured local government expert on BBC World Radio.

In Tatarstan, Russia, fellow Irina Morenko's research involving interviews with 40 Muslim clerics and journalists prompted the republic's Religious Affairs Council, Muslim Spiritual Administration, and Union of Journalists to pursue initiatives to minimize the negative stereotyping of Muslims and Islam in Russia's local and national media.

Judit Takacs presented her fellowship research and recommendations on sexual orientation antidiscrimination and equal treatment policies in Hungary to a European Commission special committee. Fellow Pavel Barsa's extensive research on migration issues provided a framework for the Czech Republic's first comprehensive set of immigration and integration policies. Research on Ukraine's iron and steel industry by Vlad Mykhnenko influenced institutions involved in economic reform and the investment decisions of a leading Scandinavian banking group and a Turkish trading company.

Former IPF fellows also made significant contributions to policy. Alumna Mihai Surdu's research on Romani desegregation helped shape 2004 legislation in Romania that outlawed segregation. Research on public administration reform in Slovakia by alumna Katarina Staronova was used by the UNDP and the World Bank for administration reform and financing programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.



“The anticorruption movement is at a crossroads. After an initial period of largely focusing on awareness raising, recipient governments and donors must now concentrate on the crucial implementation stage. The commitment to fight corruption must go beyond the pledges on paper. It must be worked into the day-to-day practices of the state, in its interactions with citizens and business.”

Petra Kovács and Martin Tisné, editors, “Anticorruption at the Crossroads,” *Local Government Brief*, policy journal of OSI’s Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, spring 2004

ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

A major problem encountered by entrepreneurs and small businesses in transitional and developing economies is a lack of access to credit due to overly constrictive banking sectors and limited management experience. The **Economic and Business Development Program** (EBDP) has helped eliminate these barriers by supporting lending programs that cater to the economically active poor—entrepreneurs who work in the informal economy or who wish to start or expand small businesses but have few tangible assets.

In 2004, EBDP supported or established lending programs in more than 20 countries, primarily through the Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF), an independent nonprofit foundation. SEDF provided loans, guarantees, and equity investments in lending programs with strong social missions.

To develop the microfinance industry as a whole, EBDP promoted better information sharing among microfinance institutions through the Microfinance Information Exchange and supported an Emergency Liquidity Facility to assist microfinance institutions threatened by natural disasters.

Large-scale training projects supported by EBDP included a new business incubation center for Romani entrepreneurs in Sliven, Bulgaria, and a regional retraining program for military servicemen in the Balkans. In Panama, the Program supported the delivery of financial advisory services to low-income clients and, in Hungary, provided job training for disadvantaged groups.

To nurture future business development, the Program assisted the University of Osijek in Croatia in the expansion of its graduate program in entrepreneurship, and provided help, through the Microfinance Management Institute, for the development of microfinance management curricula in MBA programs in India, Costa Rica, the Philippines, and South Africa.

Project IDEAS (Innovations in Developing Enterprise Assistance), a social venture capital fund established by EBDP in partnership with the International Finance Corporation, provided seed capital to innovative small businesses, including a polymer-recycling business in the Republic of Georgia and a publisher of legal document templates for small businesses in Senegal.

SCIENCE EDUCATION

The **International Soros Science Education Program** (ISSEP), celebrating its 10th year, continued to support excellence in scientific education in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia. It awarded \$2.6 million from the Moscow



and St. Petersburg city governments to outstanding professors, associate professors, undergraduate and graduate students, and high school teachers. The Open Society Institute also provided \$2.3 million to support Soros Emeritus Professors. In Georgia, ISSEP organized seminars on contemporary science and a competition among young scientists for individual grants. Over the past decade, ISSEP activities in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Georgia have resulted in the publication of 670 scientific articles in various journals and newspapers.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Helping establish good governance in countries and regions undergoing political and economic transition remained a priority in 2004 for the **Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative** (LGI). The Fiscal Decentralization Initiative, jointly funded by LGI and USAID, organized conferences on property taxation and equalization in South Eastern Europe, the reform of intergovernmental fiscal relations in Armenia and Georgia, and the role of local government associations in Central Asia and in South Eastern Europe.

LGI established the Policy Association for an Open Society, consisting of 23 policy centers, to promote good governance and open society. Another LGI initiative, the Local Government Information Network, added Serbia and Montenegro to its network; its online, multilingual library of more than 6,500 local government policy-related documents registered 320,000 visits and 18,000 downloads.

In Romania, LGI's Managing Multiethnic Communities Program collaborated with the Partners for Local Development Foundation to train 24 instructors from 18 countries on how to use a new curriculum to teach local officials diversity management techniques. In partnership with the World Bank, LGI continued to support the DELTA program, which has fostered local economic development plans in 17 municipalities in Kosovo and Albania. LGI launched two new fellowship projects to help ensure the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital, and to monitor municipal finances.

Working in countries outside of CEE/fSU, LGI helped organize a network in Indonesia to share information on decentralization issues.

These are a few highlights of the 2004 activities of OSI's other initiatives. For more information about the 2004 activities of a particular initiative, visit OSI's website at www.soros.org/initiatives.

Expenditures: Initiatives

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

OSI-Paris Belarus Support	\$1,039,000
Balkan Policy Group	79,000
Burma Project	2,152,000
Southeast Asia Project	1,468,000
Indonesia Initiative	477,000
Central Eurasia Project	3,375,000
Middle East Projects	4,340,000
China Grants	754,000
Latin America Regional Initiatives	4,901,000
Project Syndicate	1,349,000
Other International	5,111,000

TOTAL INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES	\$25,046,000
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NETWORK PROGRAMS

Arts and Culture Network Program	\$502,000
Children and Youth Programs	8,741,000
East East Program	3,219,000
Economic and Business Development Program	4,774,000
Education Support Program	3,490,000
English Language Program	799,000
EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program	1,106,000
Information Program	11,427,000
International Policy Fellowships	977,000
International Higher Education Support Program	15,432,000
Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative	7,620,000
Media Program	9,424,000
Open Society Justice Initiative	13,162,000
Public Health Program	16,323,000
Roma Participation Program	2,125,000
Scholarship Programs*	16,511,000
Women's Program	5,252,000

TOTAL NETWORK PROGRAMS	\$120,885,000
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* The Network Scholarship Program reflects third party activity for the Palestinian Rule of Law Project totaling \$59,817. Of this amount, \$57,067 has been applied to accrued tuition and \$2,750 to tuition expense.