



The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation based in New York City, is the center of the Soros foundations network. OSI and the network promote open society by seeking to shape government policy and supporting education, media, public health, human rights, and women's rights, as well as social, legal, and economic reform.

The goal is to transform closed societies into open ones and to protect and expand the values of existing open societies. Open societies are characterized by the rule of law; respect for human rights, minorities, and a diversity of opinions; democratically elected governments; market economies in which business and government are separate; and thriving civil societies.

Investor and philanthropist George Soros, founder and chairman of the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network, began establishing foundations in Central and Eastern Europe before the collapse of communism. Today Soros foundations and OSI programs operate in more than 60 countries throughout the world.

The Soros foundations are autonomous institutions established in particular countries or regions to initiate or support open society activities. A local board of directors, in consultation with Soros and OSI boards and advisors, determines the priorities and specific activities of each Soros foundation.

To varying degrees, all of the Soros foundations participate in network programs. OSI's network programs address specific issues or areas—public health, media, and early childhood education, for example—on a network-wide basis. OSI also has a number of international initiatives as well as programs in the United States. Descriptions of the foundations, programs, and initiatives—and their 2004, activities—can be found throughout the pages of this report.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE (NEW YORK)

The Open Society Institute in New York and the Open Society Institute—Budapest each administer a number of initiatives and assist the other organizations and foundations in the Soros foundations network with administrative, financial, and technical support. Certain programs are administered from both New York and Budapest.

The initiatives administered by OSI in New York include the Children and Youth Programs, the Economic and Business Development Program, the English Language Program, the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Public Health Program, the Scholarship Programs, and the Women's Program.

OSI also operates the Central Eurasia Project/Middle East and North Africa Initiatives, the Burma Project/Southeast Asia Initiative, and a number of programs in the United States.

After a long absence from China, OSI is beginning to examine opportunities for funding, focusing initially on professionalism as a way to secure space independent of government and promote open society. In 2004, approximately \$500,000 was used to fund training for journalists, public defenders, and HIV/AIDS practitioners.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BUDAPEST

Initiatives based at OSI-Budapest include the Arts and Culture Network Program, the Education Support Program, the EU Monitoring and Advocacy Program, the International Higher Education Support Program, the Human Rights and Governance Grants Program, and the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative. The Budapest office, together with the CEU Center for Policy Studies, supports the International Policy Fellowships program.

OSI-Budapest also operates programs that seek to improve the situation of the Roma in Central and Eastern Europe: the Roma Culture Initiative, the Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program, and the Roma Participation Program.

OSI-Budapest is located in the Central European University complex, and its programs often share resources with CEU.

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OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-BRUSSELS

The Open Society Institute—Brussels facilitates collaboration between the Soros foundations network and the various institutions of the European Union, Council of Europe, and OSCE, as well as bilateral donors and nongovernmental organizations. In addition, OSI—Brussels works to influence EU policies and raise awareness in European institutions, governments, and opinion-making circles about issues of concern to the network.

In 2004, the activities of the office included: supporting advocacy efforts from across the network to promote human rights, democracy, and civil society within the new European Neighbourhood Policy; advocating for specific EU funding for civil society organizations in the new EU member states; promoting the case for strong EU support to the Decade of Roma Inclusion and ensuring that the EU develops adequate policies and funding to address the situation of Roma in the enlarged EU; supporting the work of the Independent Commission on Turkey to promote a more balanced debate in the EU on Turkey's possible membership; improving the European response to the fight against HIV/AIDS; leading the Publish What You Pay coalition's advocacy activities on EU financial services legislation; and advocating increased political and financial commitment from the EU to the Western Balkans.

The office organized discussions and debates in Brussels and other EU capitals involving network offices, grantees, civil society leaders, representatives of the European institutions, and other West European partners, and set up meetings with EU officials for Soros foundations colleagues. OSI—Brussels hosted short-term fellows from the Soros foundations network to build understanding and capacity in working with the European institutions, and assisted many national foundations, network programs, and grantees with their building of donor partnerships.

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION-LONDON

The Open Society Foundation—London houses various network programs and OSI-supported initiatives, including the East East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders, the Network Media Program, the Information Program, AfriMAP, and the coordinator of the Publish What You Pay coalition. The office helps facilitate collaboration between the Soros foundations network and OSI's partners in the United Kingdom, including the British government and London-based NGOs. It

assists the Soros foundations and OSI network programs in building donor partnerships, develops coalitions with OSI's long-term NGO partners, and raises awareness in UK policy circles about issues of concern to the network. In close collaboration with OSI-Brussels, the London-based director of EU affairs also engages in a variety of policy activities related to the European Union.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-PARIS

OSI-Paris is a liaison and resource office for the Soros foundations network. Since May 2001, it has acted as OSI's board liaison office, helping all national foundations to implement appropriate board rotation procedures. The Paris office also runs the Belarus Project, which was initiated in 1997 when the Belarus Soros Foundation was forced to close. The Project continues to support the development of open society in Belarus by enhancing civic culture and support activities that immediately benefit Belarusian society while preparing the country for a future democratic transition.

As a result of the forced closure of the Soros foundation in Uzbekistan in 2004, OSI created an Uzbekistan Committee to review and guide all network activity in Uzbekistan. The Committee will operate in a similar fashion to the Belarus Project.

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE-WASHINGTON, D.C. (OSI-D.C.)

The Open Society Institute-Washington, D.C., supports the OSI mission in three major ways: by encouraging responsible United States cooperation with other nations on matters that require a global response, such as the environment and disease; by helping to protect an open society in the United States by defending civil liberties and encouraging fair and responsible criminal justice policies; and by representing in Washington the many parts of the Open Society Institute, including the Soros foundations network and OSI programs.

In 2004, OSI–D.C.'s Cooperative Global Engagement Project organized debates on the advantages of collaborating with other countries on critical international

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issues. With U.S. Programs, the Washington office worked at educating the public and elected officials about the dangers of infringing fundamental rights in the name of fighting terrorism. OSI–D.C. supported the work of the Public Health Program and its grantees on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

OSI—D.C. also hosts the Latin America Program and provides a home for a number of OSI grantees, including Penal Reform International, the Freedom Investment Project, the Democracy Coalition Project, and the Center for National Security Studies. It will establish a fellows program to host staff from other parts of the Soros foundations network for short periods in order to cooperate closely on joint advocacy activities.

The Open Society Policy Center (OSPC), a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization also located in Washington, D.C., and funded by after-tax dollars, engages in policy advocacy on U.S. and international issues. OSPC takes positions on legislation before the Congress and, in some instances, on nominations sent to the Senate. OSPC hosts the Justice Roundtable, a consortium of organizations working to promote constructive criminal justice policies. In 2004, it published *Tulia: The Tip of the Drug War Iceberg* to highlight the tremendous problems inherent in federally funded joint drug task forces, such as the one in Tulia, Texas, which led to the arrest of nearly half of the adult African-American population on perjured testimony. OSPC also played a leading role in helping to develop legislation to address the plight of former prisoners reentering society.

CHAIRMAN'S AND PRESIDENTIAL GRANTS

In addition to supporting the network's foundations and initiatives, OSI makes funds available to a variety of organizations, especially in the fields of human rights and anticorruption. Many of these grantees form close partnerships with OSI and are considered an integral part of the OSI/Soros Network.

Chairman's and Presidential Grants totaled approximately \$13 million in 2004. Funding was committed or went to, among others: \$1 million to the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation, for an international initiative on HIV/AIDS to reduce drug prices and build capacity of government health care sectors; \$500,000 to the DATA Foundation, for educating the U.S. public about the issues of debt relief, aid, trade reform, and disease in Africa and the world's poorest countries; and \$250,000 to the International Bar Association to create midlevel career fellowships at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Large institutional

grants of \$1 million and \$2.5 million, respectively, were also given to longtime OSI partners Human Rights Watch and the International Crisis Group.

In the field of anticorruption, Global Witness received \$737,000 for exposing the link between exploitation of natural resources and human rights abuses, conflict, and corruption; Tiri received \$427,000 for improving governance, access to information, and learning for effective corruption control in both public and private institutions; the International Budget Project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities received \$500,000 to increase transparency in government accounting; and the Vera Institute of Justice received \$473,000 for establishing the Center on Organized Crime in the Balkans and for supporting the Altus Global Alliance to improve public safety and justice through research, reform, and NGO activism.

An endowment grant of \$6 million was also made to the Iris Foundation for the benefit of the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts.

OSI OMBUDSMAN

The OSI ombudsman addresses complaints from within and outside the Soros foundations network about acts or practices that appear to constitute abuses of authority by the national foundations, by OSI-Budapest, or by those parts of OSI in New York that serve the network. The ombudsman investigates the complaints she receives at her discretion, and reports her findings to the OSI-Budapest board as she considers appropriate. Where necessary, OSI supports the work of the ombudsman by providing her with investigative assistance. Matters that can be dealt with by other grievance mechanisms within OSI are referred to those mechanisms for resolution.

The ombudsman does not deal with employee grievances or with disagreements about the merits of a grant or programming decision. Rather, the chief concern of the ombudsman position is to investigate accusations of rudeness, negligence, dishonesty, violation of procedures, or other abuses dealing with grant applicants, other parts of the network, partner organizations, or the general public.

The position of OSI ombudsman is held by Irena Veisaite, who, in the past, has served both as the chair of the Open Society Fund-Lithuania board and as a member of the OSI–Budapest board. The ombudsman may be contacted at:

Open Society Fund–Lithuania, Didzioji Str. 5, Vilnius, Lithuania 01128 TEL: 370 5 268 55 11 FAX: 370 5 268 55 12 EMAIL: irena@osf.lt

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APPLICATION INFORMATION

OSI programs and initiatives award grants, scholarships, and fellowships on a regular basis throughout the year. The type of funding and eligibility requirements differ for each initiative. Potential applicants should consult the Grants, Scholarships, and Fellowships section of the OSI website, www.soros.org, to determine their eligibility and access appropriate application guidelines.

The Soros foundations award grants principally to local organizations and individuals. Some foundations also award grants to foreign organizations working in partnership with local groups. Potential grant applicants should contact individual foundations about their application procedures. Contact information for the Soros foundations can be found on the OSI website or in the directory at the end of this report.

2004 EXPENDITURES

The Soros foundations network's expenditures totaled \$4.08 million in 2004. Some of these funds were contributed by George 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 are included in the relevant organization's expenditures as reported here. The Soros foundations network's total expenditures are summarized on the next page.

Soros foundations. The 2004 expenditures for the Soros foundations appear at the end of the regional reports section. Each Soros foundation has a chart outlining its expenditures in various categories. Payments made by the Open Society Institute in New York, the Open Society Institute—Budapest, or other entities on behalf of the Soros foundations for network programs or other activities are included in these charts.

Network programs and international initiatives. The initiatives section contains expenditures for each of the network programs and international initiatives. The expenditures include money spent by individual Soros foundations as well as by the Open Society Institute or the Open Society Institute—Budapest.

The goal of presenting the data in this manner is to show the total amount of money expended in a particular country or region, 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 below. In addition, other Sorossponsored organizations made grants in some countries outside the framework of the Soros foundations or network programs. These are noted in expenditure charts dealing with the country in question.

Expenditures: Soros Foundations Network

Soros Foundations	\$148,060,000
Network Programs	120,885,000
International Initiatives	25,046,000
U.S. Programs	81,984,000
All Other Organizations, Programs, and Costs	64,300,000
Interorganizational Elimination	(32,179,000)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$408,095,000

PARTNERSHIPS

DONOR PARTNERS

As OSI and the Soros foundations network evolve and expand their global agenda, partnerships with other donors are becoming ever more significant in making possible the work described in this annual report. In some instances, these partnerships involve explicit agreements with other donors to share costs. At other times, they take place informally when another donor determines to support a project OSI has initiated or, conversely, when we build upon another donor's initiative. In some cases, other donors contribute directly to one of the Soros foundations in support of a particular project.

Our donor partners include:

International organizations such as the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNESCO/International Institute for Education Planning, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

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(OSCE), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Council of Europe, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the European Commission, and the Asia Development Bank. OSI's collaboration with UNDP is especially extensive, and includes a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions and numerous joint funding projects;

National government aid agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Britain's Department for International Development (DFID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Dutch MATRA Programme, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs FRESTA Programme, the German Foreign Ministry, and a number of Austrian government agencies, including the ministries of education and foreign affairs, that operate bilaterally;

National governments in several countries that cofund programs sponsored by Soros foundations in those countries, especially in education;

American private foundations such as the United Nations Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the American Austrian Foundation, Freedom Forum, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the JEHT Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Irene Diamond Fund, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Lilly Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Schumann Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, the Tides Foundation, and the German Marshall Fund:

European private foundations such as AVINA, the Robert Bosch Foundation, the King Baudouin Foundation, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the European Cultural Foundation, and some of the German political party-affiliated foundations;

European and North American institutions that administer assistance funds obtained from their governments, such as the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Press Now (Netherlands), NOVIB (Netherlands), International

Media Support (Denmark), the British Council, Norwegian People's Aid, Medienhilfe (Switzerland), Freedom House (U.S.), IREX (U.S.), the National Endowment for Democracy (U.S.), the Eurasia Foundation (U.S.), the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund (U.S., France, Britain), Norwegian and Danish Burma Committees, Olof Palme International Center (Sweden), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Germany), Rights and Democracy (Canada), International Republican Institute (U.S.), and the Asia Foundation (U.S.).

OSI also is a donor and partner of the Baltic-American Partnership Fund and the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations are deeply grateful to all our funding partners and thank them for their role in building open societies and for the trust in the Soros foundations reflected by their support.

NGO PARTNERS

Another form of partnership is also of enormous importance to the Soros foundations: the relationships with grantees that have developed into alliances in pursuing crucial parts of the open society agenda.

These partners include, but are not limited to:

International Crisis Group for its research and advocacy in addressing armed conflicts and other crises in international relations;

Human Rights Watch for its leadership in protecting civil and political rights worldwide:

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation for championing the rights of Americans, and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund for its defense of civil rights and civil liberties in the United States;

European Roma Rights Center for its defense of the rights of a minority that is severely persecuted in many countries;

Media Development Loan Fund and the Southern Africa Media Development Fund for their role in assisting independent media to develop as self-sustaining businesses:

Vera Institute of Justice for its innovative efforts to pursue criminal justice reform programs in such countries as Russia, South Africa, and the United States;

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Global Witness for its investigations of the connections between resource exploitation, corruption, the arms trade, and severe abuses of human rights;

Center for Public Integrity for promoting transparency in government and exposing corruption;

DATA Foundation for raising awareness about various crises swamping Africa, such as insurmountable debt and the spread of AIDS;

Democracy Coalition Project for working to strengthen the intergovernmental Community of Democracies process as a mechanism for democratic change;

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities for its expertise on budget and tax policy questions in the United States, and also for its International Budget Project, which promotes budget transparency and accountability in transition countries;

Committee to Protect Journalists and Article 19 for their work defending and upholding freedom of expression;

Center for Community Change for its efforts to give low-income people a voice in American democracy;

No Peace Without Justice for its support of the International Criminal Court, and its efforts to end female genital mutilation;

Global Fund for Women for its advocacy on human rights for women around the world;

International Center for Transitional Justice for its assistance to transition countries wishing to pursue accountability for mass atrocity or human rights abuse under previous regimes;

Justice at Stake Campaign for its efforts to keep the U.S. courts fair and impartial;

Local chapters of *Transparency International* for their work with Soros foundations on anticorruption measures;

Médecins Sans Frontières, AIDS Foundation East-West, Doctors of the World, and Partners in Health for their efforts in addressing crucial public health emergencies that are often connected to abuses of human rights;

Brennan Center for Justice for its intellectual leadership in devising legal approaches to issues of civil liberties and democracy in the United States;

Mental Disability Rights International, the Hamlet Trust, and the Mental Disability *Advocacy Center* for their protection of the rights of the mentally disabled;

Penal Reform International for its worldwide efforts to reduce incarceration and protect the rights of prison inmates;

Sentencing Project for leading efforts in the United States to reduce excessive imprisonment;

International Women's Health Coalition, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, for their work protecting and expanding reproductive health advocacy and services around the world;

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland for its human rights training efforts in Central Asia and Russia, as well as in Poland;

Project Syndicate for providing diverse commentaries to over 240 newspapers worldwide;

Nurcha for helping build hundreds of thousands of low-cost houses in South Africa;

Drug Policy Alliance for its promotion of an alternative drug policy in the United States;

Institute on Medicine as a Profession for promoting professionalism in U.S. medicine;

and a great many others.

The pages of this and previous annual reports also mention numerous independent organizations that were created by OSI or that spun off from OSI or Soros foundation programs. All of these institutions obtain support from many donors. In many cases, the funding OSI provides is only a small fraction of their total revenue. The support they obtain from multiple donors enhances their independence and, of course, helps to ensure their long-term survival as institutions that can help to build open societies.





The most current and complete directory and

OSI-related information can be found on the

OSI website www.soros.org

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SOROS FOUNDATIONS

Open Society Foundation for Albania

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Inga Todria

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 $\label{thm:condition} \mbox{Vitalie Ciobanu, Lurie Leanca, Ludmnila Malcoci, Eugen Osmochescu,}$

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