

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Europe Regional
Program Title:	Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	180-0210
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,227,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$615,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,593,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY1989
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID increases the quality and quantity of citizen participation in the political and economic decision-making in Southeastern Europe through programs consisting of grants, training, technical assistance, and publications in the following areas: Civil society and NGO strengthening; Independent media support; Regional labor networking; and Program development support.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$554,000 AEEB). The Regional Networking Program (RNP) strengthens the capacity of local NGOs and think tanks to inform public opinion and to influence public policy in order to accelerate the region's transition to open political and economic systems. FY 2004 priorities include grants for cross-border reform projects between Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Eurasia organizations; institutional grants to four leading regional think tanks; and a conference to share lessons learned between professionals promoting the development of the NGO sectors in the region. The principal grantee is Freedom House.

The NGO Legal Reform Initiative (NGOLRI) (\$150,000 AEEB) will continue to work throughout CEE to develop legal frameworks that allow NGOs to play a constructive role in their communities. FY 2004 activities include regional workshops, analytical publications and comparative surveys, fellowship programs, and educational activities. Additionally, the capacity of the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law, an indigenous regional resource center in Budapest that will continue work in this area after this program ends in 2005, will continue to be strengthened. The principal grantee is the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

The NGO Sustainability Index (NGOSI) (\$95,000 AEEB) is a comprehensive and comparative study of the strength and viability of NGO sectors in the region. FY 2004 funds will be used to contract out the production of the eighth edition of the Sustainability Index for the first time. Additionally, a compendium report will be compiled on Lessons Learned in NGO Financial Viability to provide a detailed look at NGOs who have succeeded at raising significant levels of funding from local sources. The primary contractor will be determined.

Nations in Transit (NIT) (\$125,000 AEEB) is a comprehensive annual progress report on the democratic transition in the E&E region. FY 2004 funds will update NIT's methodology; publish the eighth edition of the report, including a new political prescriptions section for each country; and expand media coverage and policy events to highlight NIT findings. The principal grantee is Freedom House.

Independent media support (\$400,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). The Regional Media Program strengthens independent print and broadcast media in the region. FY 2004 priorities include encouraging more cross border and regional investigative reporting; monitoring media legal issues, including the drafting and implementation of media laws; defining best practices in media development; and assessing

and ranking media systems in the region through the Media Sustainability Index (MSI). The principal grantee is the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

Regional labor networking (\$200,000 AEEB). USAID promotes multinational cooperation among Balkan labor activists by bringing together union leaders and members to establish a regional network that will endure beyond the life of this activity. FY 2004 priorities include regional meetings; exchanges on post-privatization and other key topics; improvement of technical communications capabilities; and educational outreach. The principal grantee is the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS).

Program development support (\$103,000 AEEB, \$215,000 AEEB carryover). The above program areas will be supported by program-funded technical staff and related support.

FY 2005 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$575,000 AEEB). In FY 2005, RNP will finalize its efforts to consolidate a regional network of NGOs, with continued emphasis on transferring CEE reform experience to Eurasia countries. The NGOLRI will continue to develop the capacity of ECNL to serve SEE countries and institutionalize NGO law in university curricula. Ninth editions of the NGOSI and NIT will be published. Technical assistance will be provided to USAID missions and partners to help them develop approaches and tools to incorporate lessons learned from the NGO financial viability study. FY 2005 funds will be used to expand the Roma Support Program to include other countries in Southeastern Europe and, with FSA funds, Eurasia.

Independent media support (\$400,000 AEEB). The Regional Media Program will continue to support regional and cross-border media development activities. Support of investigative reporting on cross-border issues, including trafficking in persons, will increase the potential support of a regional investigative journalism training center. The MSI will continue to be supported, as will the annual media conference.

Regional labor networking (\$300,000 AEEB). The sharing of lessons learned and best practices between labor activists in the Balkans will continue.

Program development support (\$318,000 AEEB). Program-funded staff, travel, conferences and meetings will continue to support the above program areas.

Performance and Results: RNP awarded over 40 grants to NGOs in the region to advance democratic reforms. NGOLRI regional activities contributed to the passage of several new laws benefiting NGOs in the region; the education of more than 400 students on NGO law; and the registration of the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law.

The Regional Media Program published the second edition of the MSI, organized a conference for media professionals in the region, promoted the publication of investigative reporting, and supported production of two local TV projects.

Five regional labor roundtables were held, leading to the development and implementation of action plans. A website has been created for use in training sessions and by the educators to exchange best practices. Labor activists in the region have been emboldened to undertake more ambitious programs and coordinated actions.