

## **ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING PROJECT FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE (ETP)**

The Center for Nations in Transition at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota began implementing the ETP project in 1992 in 6 countries: Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the Slovak Republic.

USAID and the ETP Consortium formed ETP as one response to the severe environmental crises in Central and Eastern Europe. Polluted air, water and soil; declining forests; shrinking biodiversity; and health problems (declining life expectancy and growing mortality rates) caused by pollution presented serious barriers to development in the region.

ETP provides training in

- Environmental Business Management and Administration
- NGOs
- Universities (introduce new courses in environmental policy and management, and environmental and natural resource economics; establish environmental extension services)
- Local and regional governments (to conduct environmental audits, risk assessments and environmental impact statements, among many other issues)
- A Post-diploma Studies (PDS) program was added later in the program to train business and local government leaders in municipal management and strategic planning, especially focusing on addressing local environment needs.

University of Minnesota professors taught the first courses, providing extensive Training of Trainers workshops to build a cadre of CEE trainers who would lead the training sessions on their own. Local professors took over the subsequent series of courses.

Results:

- Over 10,000 people trained
- Formation of six in-country organizations to facilitate ETP initiatives. “As part of that transition, the ETP management office at the University of Minnesota increasingly shifted its role from project initiator to resource management center for in-country organizations. This shift offered in-country organizers the flexibility to establish themselves and make decisions appropriate to their situations, while benefiting from the expertise and experience of the ETP office in Minnesota.” Taken from the Annual Report for Year Five, University of Minnesota, 1997
- General Motors decided to locate a plant in the town of Gliwice, Poland (an initial investment of \$50-\$70 million projected to grow to \$300 million.). A graduate of

ETP training played a key role in working with GM to facilitate the agreement with local authorities.

- \$280,000 raised in matched funding by local organizations in 1997 alone

*Ten Year Report/Final Product/Environment/overviewetp.doc*