

# WHO IS WHO: ACTIVITIES, PLANS, S.O.S.

*Editor's Introduction: The "Who is Who" section of the Centers for Pluralism Newsletter has, from its inception, offered organizations throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union a forum to publicize their activities, their plans, and their needs. In the previous twenty-seven issues it has included descriptions of more than 1,000 NGOs as well as dozens of Western donors and organizations implementing programs in the region. The "Who is Who" and "Who is Where" sections have been an important resource and together have comprised the broad Centers for Pluralism Network.*

*Yet, not since the first issue published in March 1993, which listed the first 7 Centers for Pluralism and 5 partner organizations, has the Newsletter published a full listing of the NGOs that make up the Centers for Pluralism and immediate Partner organizations.*

*The Centers for Pluralism began in 1992 as an idea to provide key, emerging NGOs in the region with support in order to foster their own activities to build civil society and also to encourage their role as facilitator, coalition builder, and networker both within and across borders. Beginning first in Central and Eastern European countries, the Network quickly spread to other countries of former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia. Through semi-annual meetings, common projects, the Newsletter, training workshops, and seminars, the Centers for Pluralism became the largest, most extensive, and long-lasting network of NGOs in "the East" and the most successful in working across borders and sharing experiences of democratic movements. In addition to the Centers, though, there were many organizations who participated in CfP events and activities that did not wish to play the same type of central or facilitating role in their own countries. These we have called Centers for Pluralism partners.*

*Today, these include 21 Centers for Pluralism and 22 CfP Partner organizations in 22 countries and regions. This list does not include many who have participated recently in Centers for Pluralism programs; it also does not include others who have dropped out, closed, or worse, taken a road directly antithetical to the principles of the Centers for Pluralism. The list DOES include those who have had active, ongoing, or longstanding (over ten years) participation in the work of promoting the Centers for Pluralism, its programs, its values, and its commitment to spreading not just civil society but also democracy throughout the region. In the past, you have had to search through a dozen or so Newsletters in order to get current information on the CFPs and Partners. We believe it is useful to present them in full — for the first time.\**

## **Armenian National Committee of the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly (HCA)**

**Yerevan, Armenia**

 The Armenian National Committee of the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly (HCA) was established in 1992 as a national branch of the International HCA. It was registered in 1994 as a non-governmental, non-profit organization.

The Armenian National Committee of HCA has a network of local branches in the regions of Armenia, with a total membership

of about 400. It works closely with the other National Committees in the Caucasus, Turkey, Russia, and Ukraine as well as with many other international organizations to fulfill its goals, which are as follows:

- To assist in the creation of civil society, to support civic initiatives, and to develop a democratic infrastructure in Armenia;
- To promote awareness of human rights values through educational programs;
- To promote the public involvement in the peace process in conflict areas, particularly the Nagorno Karabakh issue;

\* We apologize to the many organizations that have sent in information to the previous coordinator of the Newsletter or to IDEE. For reasons of space, we are unable to include all of these and the CFPs. If we are able to continue publishing, we hope to contact you in the future.

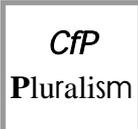
- To widen public participation in the democratization process in Armenia, especially in areas outside the capital;

ANC/HCA is involved in several projects to further these goals. The organization coordinates citizens' participation programs to encourage the involvement of the public in civil society, such as the projects, "South Caucasus Women Leadership 2000," Young People's and Women's Role in the Development of an Open Society," and working as national coordinator of IDEE's regional program, "Networking Women in the Caucasus." In this last role as national coordinator, HCA actively plans and implements trans-border activities for the women of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and publishes a newsletter.

ANC/HCA is an active participant of the public peace process initiated by the Foundation for Global Community, which aims to bring people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno Karabakh together for open discussion, dialogue, and possible cooperation. HCA has also created and maintains a center for public education in the city of Charentsavan, which plays an important role in facilitating the integration of refugees into society.

## Association of IDP Women (AIDW)

### Tbilisi, Georgia



The Association of IDP Women "Consent" is a non-governmental organization created in 1995 by a group of volunteers from the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) community. Registered in April 1996, the Association unites internally displaced women as well as men who are interested in issues related to the IDP population.

The Association's mission is to create opportunities for IDP women and members of their families to enjoy equal participation in the social and political life of Georgia, to realize their human rights, and to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. In order to fulfill this mission, the Association for IDP Women has formulated the following main objectives:

- To ensure equal rights for IDP women in social, economic, civil and health spheres;
- To raise awareness about the impor-

tance of reconciliation and women's participation in the reconciliation process;

- To support networks of women and help foster women leaders;
- To assist in the creation of healthy family and community conditions;
- To work with children in psycho-rehabilitation and reconciliation;
- To promote women's and children/youth dialogue across boundaries.

The association pursues its objectives through targeted activities in the areas of social and psychological rehabilitation, educational programs, counseling, peace-building, and micro-credit programs. In the first area, the association funds and organizes free psychological, medical and social assistance to IDPs in several locations in Georgia, and reaches hundreds of victims, some through community centers established in partnership with other regional NGOs. AIDPW also funds research on the impact of war on children and women.

The association's educational programs consist of training for IDP women, such as English and German courses, computer classes for IDP women and courses in alternative methods of conflict resolution for leaders within the IDP community. Youth programs include art and theater classes as well as training for children from conflict zones in peace, reconciliation and human rights.

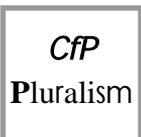
The Association for IDP Women provides counseling for the participation of IDPs in elections and general political participation. In the past, the association has provided legal assistance and psychological counseling for IDPs. The Association also organizes summer peace camps for Georgian, Abkhazian, and Ossetian children in Bulgaria, and has conducted training for children in civic education, conflict resolution, and peer mediation, as part of its peace-building program. In the last year, it organized a new second-stage program with the Crimean Teachers Council for older youth.

AIDW is an active member of the CFP Network, participating in study tours, sharing information, and helping coordinate joint programs. It is the Georgian partner for IDEE's regional program "Working Together — Networking Women in the Caucasus," which began in a series of training seminars for

women leaders from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan held in Lekhani, Georgia and continued with cooperative projects across borders. Its cross-border Citizens' Forum in Batumi was a unique event, involving trainers and participants from all three countries to come together around the common problem of migration.

## Center for Democracy and Human Rights

### Podgorica, Montenegro



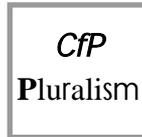
The Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM) was founded in 1997 to promote democracy, human rights, economic reform and the development of civil society. It was established as a non-profit association of citizens with a mission to:

- Advance the idea of and spread information on the importance of a successful democratic transition
- Research, analyze and monitor the process of transition
- Influence, as much as possible, the transitional process in Montenegro and the rest of the former Yugoslavia
- Contribute to strengthening civil society and the democratization process as a whole

The Center for Democracy and Human Rights works as both an activist organization and think tank. It publishes semi-annual public opinion surveys, which are highly regarded and receive extensive press coverage as the most authoritative measurements of public sentiment in Montenegro. (CEDEM's election-day polling has confirmed the actual vote count within .01 percent of accuracy.) Its quarterly *Transitions* publication provides in-depth analysis on issues dealing with foreign policy, the independence question, human rights, and economic reform. CEDEM has also organized a number of conferences on European human rights norms.

In addition, CEDEM continues to play a role in fostering civil society development. As the coordinator of an NGO coalition, it has led efforts to improve provisions in the NGO law that were adopted by parliament. As coordinator of IDEE's Civic Bridges program in Montenegro, CEDEM organized two small grant competitions and provided nearly 50 small grants to emerging NGOs.

## Center for Development and Cooperation Tbilisi, Georgia



The Center for Development and Cooperation – Center for Pluralism (CDC-CfP) was established in 1996 as a non-profit think-tank and non-governmental organization dedicated to strengthening grassroots NGO activity and the Third Sector, protecting human and minority rights, promoting the values of democracy and civil society in Georgia, and fostering cooperation among NGOs in the South Caucasus and in Central and Eastern Europe.

The organization's mission is to:

- Conduct Caucasian Regional Studies and contribute to Caucasian cooperation;
- Research East-West and North-South relations;
- Deal with human and minority rights issues and conflict resolution;
- Participate in the development of cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the Black Sea region;
- Suggest practical recommendations, concepts, programs and other documents promoting development of the democratic state system, economics, politics, law and civil society;
- Contribute to public education on human rights, democracy, independent media, and civil society-related issues.

The organization promotes cooperation among NGOs in the Caucasus by actively participating in the Centers for Pluralism network. CDC's representatives have participated in CfP annual meetings since 1997 and in April 2000, CDC-CfP hosted the 15th annual meeting in Tbilisi. Starting in December 2000, the organization has also organized the Caucasus regional meetings of the CFP and other seminars attended by representatives of various regional NGOs.

CDC-CfP promotes the discussion of human rights and minority issues through its extensive publications. Its consistent contributions to STINA News Agency on this topic and on the general situation in Georgia have been a resource for independent media. It has translated several works into Georgian

addressing human rights, such as the OSCE's "Recommendations on National Minorities" and the book, "Monitoring Human Rights," which was originally issued by the Polish Helsinki Function of Human Rights.

CDC-CfP has been especially involved in supporting resolution of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The organization participates in meetings which serve as dialogues between Abkhaz and Georgian NGOs, and it has held seminars on the freedoms and human rights of Georgian minorities and on national language policy. CDC-CfP's numerous publications have offered suggestions for resolution of the conflict and for dealing with the issue of internally displaced persons and have documented the discussions that take place at the organization's seminars. CDC-CfP is participating in the international project "Educational Kit for Georgian-Abkhaz Dialogue."

CDC-CfP has joined with other NGOs in the Democratic Coalition of NGOs for Fair Elections in Georgia to monitor elections in fall 2003. Representatives will continue to work on the concept of a settlement in Abkhazia as members of a working group which was created in January 2003. The organization has several publications and presentations in progress on conflict resolution, elections and strengthening civil society.

### **Center for Civic Initiatives**

#### **Prilep, Macedonia**

*CfP*  
Pluralism

The Center for Civic Initiatives facilitates the development of democracy and civic society in Macedonia and involves young people in education and action to promote positive changes in their communities and country.

CCI runs an NGO support center that builds cooperation among 80 NGOs in Prilep and the surrounding area and gives them access to equipment and training. Its Education for Human Rights and Tolerance Program brings together children and teenagers for computer, theater and debate programs aimed at removing stereotypes about minorities. An open mayor's office program promotes communication between local government, NGOs, and citizens.

CCI is one of the most well-known and recognized NGOs in Macedonia working towards a multiethnic and democratic society. It is involved in various regional initiatives promoting conflict resolution. Through the Centers for Pluralism program it has participated in several internship and study tour programs in Poland and other CEE countries and has developed common programs with CfPs in neighboring countries.

### **Center for Pluralism–Bulgaria**

#### **Sofia, Bulgaria**

*CfP*  
Pluralism

The Center for Pluralism was established as a civic organization in 1995, and carries out a number of civic education programs. Originally, the CfP–Bulgaria was part of the Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation. As the first Center for Pluralism established in December 1992, it carried out a broad range of civic, educational, and social programs, including a publishing center for independent media, a professional computer development program for NGO and other activists, a civic education program, an AIDS-awareness program, and one of the first centers for homeless Roma youth which also provided an initiative for school integration.

Since 1995, CfP–Bulgaria co-hosted the regional conference on postcommunism sponsored by IDEE, provided training for young activists, organized an ongoing election participation and education program called "Go To Vote," instituted a "Meet Your Parliamentarian" program, and participated in a number of regional efforts through the Centers for Pluralism Network for sharing Bulgaria's experience with other CEE countries, especially in Slovakia. Most recently, CfP–Bulgaria has organized a region-wide conference on PACE Resolution 1096 on issues related to opening secret police files. The event, the first regional examination of post-communist countries' handling of secret police files according to the principles of PACE Resolution 1096, was attended by 50 experts from more than ten countries. CfP–Bulgaria plans a "Go to Vote" project for the next elections in 2004.

## Civic Development International Center

### Tbilisi, Georgia



CDIC is a non-governmental, non-profit organization devoted to promoting the process of building and developing a civil society in Georgia. Registered in 1996, CDIC has no political or governmental affiliation. The activities of the CDIC support the growth of civic education and participation, the establishment of conditions for civic participation, and the fostering of a culture of strategic thinking about the professional and social environment of Georgia.

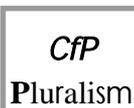
CDIC endeavors to promote the ideas of an open society and economic freedom and the realization in social and public institutions and consistently supports all social forces directed toward nation-building and the cultural integration of Georgia with the free world.

The main goals of the organization are to:

- Expand the concept of civic development;
- Research Third Sector problems;
- Research past and present conditions for the functioning of civil societies;
- Initiate dialogue between NGOs and local government;
- Support non-governmental, non-profit, and community-based organizations and foundations in civil society.

To accomplish these goals, CDIC is actively engaged in advocacy, lobbying, research, information collecting, publishing and training. In addition to ongoing research programs, CDIC has organized NGO and other "incubation projects" — providing support for a community health center, organizing training for NGO leaders on refugee and IDP issues, internet training for professional journalists, and a School for Democracy for civic and political leaders. In the last year, CDIC organized two CfP-funded programs to organize "democracy roundtables" in key regions outside the capital on such topics as democracy, elections, and ethnic conflict.

## Civic Initiatives



### Belgrade, Serbia

Civic Initiatives (CI) was founded in 1996 in Belgrade, Serbia, by

prominent NGO activists and intellectuals involved in the anti-war movement and non-nationalist democratic opposition since 1990. Analyzing the failure of other democratic movements and believing in the need to address issues raised by the wars in Yugoslavia, CI's founders focused on the value of creating a civic basis for democratic changes and by educating citizens about their rights, about democracy, and about the role of civil society.

From the beginning, Civic Initiatives' strategy was to build a stronger, more effective and potentially more sustainable NGO community by creating ties and networks across regional, national, ethnic, religious, gender, and social barriers. CI focuses its efforts on areas outside of Belgrade, to connect local groups to the capital. This effort helped to build the Izlaz 2000 (Exit 2000) coalition of more than 200 NGOs during the presidential and parliamentary elections of September 2000 and afterwards the national federation of NGOs FENS, which CI coordinates.

Civic Initiatives' has several highly successful ongoing programs, including the Democracy School, which has organized basic and advanced educational seminars for civic, trade union, and political activists as well as for journalists and local officials in dozens of towns and cities throughout Serbia. Taught by well known public figures and academics, topics include tolerance, minority rights, local governance, the role of civil society, among others.

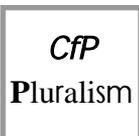
CI's NGO Resource Center provides expert advice, counseling, information, and technical resources as well as various facilities for assisting the development of the Third Sector in the region. TIM Tri, one of the region's premier training groups, offers training programs for NGOs in Serbia and elsewhere in former Yugoslavia with the aim of strengthening their knowledge, civic understanding, capacity, and sustainability.

Civic Initiatives also publishes *Mreza*, a monthly newsletter addressing issues of importance to the NGO community, including news, conferences, and funding opportunities. The organization also publishes various informational booklets on such topics as democratic political systems, trade unions, post-communist society, human rights and civil society.

In the next year, CI will continue its involvement in redesigning civic education for the schools, broadening its “Becoming a Citizens Program” as a model for high schools, continuing its “Town Hall” program, as well as maintaining the ongoing programs described above. It has also established a large number of regional contacts through the Centers for Pluralism Network, assisting counterparts in Azerbaijan, Belarus, and other countries. It hopes to continue to provide assistance to those NGO sectors in need.

## Civil Society Against Corruption

### Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Civil Society Against Corruption was established as a public association in May 2000 at the initiative of a number of prominent citizens and leaders of NGOs in Kyrgyzstan, including the leaders of the Center for Human Rights, the Chamber of Tax Consultants, the Legal Forum, the Public Community of People’s Social Protection, as well as the editor of the newspaper *Litsa*, among others. Tolekan Ismailova, founder and president of the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, became the Chairman of the Coordination Council on a voluntary basis. She later became CSAC’s executive director in August 2002.

CSAC is dedicated to promoting transparency and democratic norms and exposing corruption in public life, especially as one of the primary reasons for the lack of democratization and economic reform. In order to fully implement its program, CSAC has established partnerships with local NGOs, activists, and human rights organizations in all regions of Kyrgyzstan. Among its initiatives:

- CSAC distributed a press release in May 2000 detailing for the first time the findings of a report prepared by Transparency International as part of its corruption index, prompting national forums and discussions on the issue;

- Following the tragic events in Aksi [in which government forces killed and injured peaceful demonstrators], CSAC initiated the Forum of Kyrgyzstan Leaders “Dialogue for the Future” in the summer of 2002, which united more than 125 leaders from different

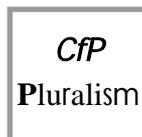
sectors of society for discussion on ways to foster Kyrgyzstan’s development;

- Following the referendum in February 2003, CSAS organized from March 1 to April 30 a program called “Bridges of Democracy after a Referendum Without Democracy.” Two public hearings were held on the topic “The Role of the Government and Peculiarities of the Majority System of Elections in Kyrgyzstan” in Dzhahal-Abad and Karakol in the Issy kul oblast. More than 500 activists took part in these events that also included leading political figures in the civic and democratic movement. Another forum on the theme “Democracy and Security: Conflict Resolution Using Peaceful Means — Ways of Cooperation” was also organized.

For the future, CSAC will continue to focus on the negative effects of the “referendum without democracy” on Kyrgyzstan’s development and will involve NGOs, civic activists, and others in achieving an open and public means of decision-making. Particular focus will be on strengthening networks of civic leaders and promoting involvement of citizens in upcoming decision making processes: local, parliamentary, and presidential elections. In addition, CSAC will launch a media program with the aim of promoting its activities.

## Crimean Teachers’ Council

### Bakhchisaray, Ukraine



Founded in 1994, the Crimean Teachers Council supports teachers and schools and promotes education in indigenous languages. It works with educators to enhance active teaching techniques through workshops and seminars, involves parents in the education process with teachers, and works with community members to support and promote active civic participation on local issues. Through its work, it has become one of the leading non-governmental organizations in the Crimean Tatar community.

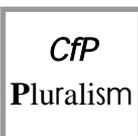
Since 1998, the CTC has conducted regular “training of trainer” workshops to teach local activists how to organize Parent-Teacher Councils and also how to lead civic forums to address and resolve issues important to the community. The Teachers’ Council has hosted a number of interns from the CfP

Network at its training workshops, including from Mongolia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Central and Eastern Europe. It also has hosted a peace camp for students from Georgia as part of an exchange with the IDP Association of Women.

The Crimean Teachers' Council is also active in networking activities and programs abroad. CTC Chairperson Dilara Setveliyeva has worked as a trainer with various IDEE projects, including the women's leadership programs in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

## **D. Aliyeva Society for the Protection of Women's Rights**

### **Baku, Azerbaijan**



The D. Aliyeva Society for the Protection of Women's Rights is a non-governmental, non-political, non-religious social organization founded in 1988 and registered in 1990 and is one of Azerbaijan's oldest independent organizations. The society has eight regional offices and approximately twenty thousand members and one thousand activists, among whom are teachers, lawyers, physicians, scientists, musicians, sociologists, and laborers. The aims of the organization are to: (1) protect the social and civil rights of women in Azerbaijan as a fundamental aspect of the country's establishment of democracy; (2) create conditions for women's participation in social and political life; and (3) conduct educational and humanitarian programs with relevance to women.

Among the Society's specific activities are:

- Assisting in legal cases having to do with women's rights and family members' rights;
- Participating in trials as public defenders;
- Informing government bodies of breaches of the Constitution and laws in regards to human and civil rights;
- Conducting seminars, conferences, and training workshops on women's issues;
- Publishing relevant information in Azerbaijan and abroad;
- Assisting in establishing new non-governmental organizations.

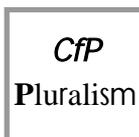
The Society has worked on numerous projects in pursuit of these objectives, including monitoring violations of women's rights, offer-

ing assistance to immigrant and/or refugee women, conducting educational seminars on the rights of women refugees and democratic society, and others. The Society continues to focus especially on educational programs, and has developed a traveling lecture-hall on women's rights, a newspaper on women's legal and educational issues, "Peace to Women," a joint project of physiological aid and rehabilitation for women refugees, among others.

The Society is the Azerbaijan coordinator of IDEE's "Networking Women in the Caucasus Program," coordinating participation in training programs and study tours, building a network of women NGO leaders, participating in multi-national training teams, organizing domestic and cross-border Citizens Forums, and co-editing the program's Caucasus-wide NGO newsletter. In this capacity, and as part of its original mission, the D. Aliyeva Society for the Protection of Women's Rights continues to play an important role in main streaming and integrating women NGO leaders and NGOs focusing on women's issues in the overall civic movement. As an active participant in the CfP Network, the Society has participated in numerous study tours and exchanges and provided assistance to numerous NGOs visiting Azerbaijan.

## **Forum of Tuzla Citizens**

### **Tuzla, Bosnia and Hercegovina**



The Forum of Tuzla Citizens was founded as a response to the need and determination to preserve Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole, independent, and decentralized sovereign state within its historical and geopolitical borders, regulated by parliamentary and democratic principles and as recognized by the international community. The purpose behind this imperative aim is to guarantee that no part of Bosnia and Hercegovina's territory can be considered a separate national territory by any of its people, as well as to guarantee that nationalist tendencies do not re-emerge on its territory.

The Forum is a non-political association, where citizens gather on the basis of free will and personal choice. The Forum currently has over 15,000 members. The mission of

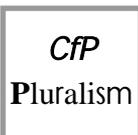
the Forum of Tuzla Citizens is to:

- Re-establish mutual trust motivated by humanism and strength of spirit;
- Return displaced persons and refugees to their ancient places of origin and return their property;
- Punish all war criminals;
- Develop patriotic feelings in the Bosnia-Herzegovina population based on positive cultural and ethnic experiences in the region;
- Support and actively participate in all constructive peaceful initiatives that are in accordance with the principles of The Forum;
- Respect human rights and freedoms that are in accordance with the Declaration of the Rights of Man; and
- Preserve multinational and multi-religious, material and spiritual heritage.

The Forum of Tuzla Citizens coordinates seminars, round tables and cultural events on topics of democratization, multi-culturalism, cross-border communication, human rights and conflict resolution. It publishes informational booklets on these issues. It advocates for a unitary BiH through different activities, monitors human rights abuses, and participates in regional initiatives and events. As a member of the Centers for Pluralism Network, the Forum hosted the 10th meeting of the Centers for Pluralism.

## Foundation for Pluralism

### Bucharest, Romania



The Foundation for Pluralism (FfP) is a non-partisan activist organization founded in March 1994 dedicated to promoting political pluralism, independent media and a market economy.

The core activity of FfP is the education and training of young political leaders. FfP is the only Romanian NGO to organize a systematic series of non-partisan workshops and seminars for young political leaders, reaching hundreds of new activists. The School for Young Political Leaders programs aim to offer better knowledge and understanding of political doctrines, space for political dialogue, and an opportunity to acquire skills for effective political action. It also focuses on the promotion of dialogue among political parties and the development of leadership skills. Many of

the participants go on to become members of Parliament, civil servants or representatives of public administration or political offices.

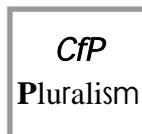
FfP has organized several regional Schools for Young Political Leaders in partnership with CfPs, including Democracy After Communism Foundation in Hungary and Civic Initiatives in Serbia. The Schools allow young leaders to exchange experiences and expose them to regional, non-partisan, and interactive learning.

Last year, the Foundation for Pluralism implemented a program entitled "Making Political Agendas into a Citizens' Agenda," which was geared toward young political leaders and focused on ethics and morals in politics and ways to pursue political agendas based on constituent needs. The Foundation also organized an internship program for four CfP members to learn more about how citizens can influence the political agenda.

FfP (formerly known as the Humanitas Foundation) is an original member of the Centers for Pluralism (CfP) network and hosted its 2nd and 15th meetings. The Foundation has established common projects with many CfPs in neighboring countries as well as in Romania and participated in training and exchange programs throughout the CEE/FSU region. It assisted the Center for Antiwar Action and later Civic Initiatives in coordinating training programs for young civic activists from Serbia. More recently, it organized a study tour for women NGO leaders from the Caucasus and Central Asia as a result of participation in IDEE's "Women's Networking" programs. FfP participated in establishing a partnership with the German Marshall Fund Fellowship Program for young political leaders and journalists. It is also the Romanian partner of the American Council for Young Political Leaders.

## Inam (Trust)

### Baku, Azerbaijan



Inam (meaning a "Trust" in Azeri) was established in 1992. It is an information, resource, and coordinating center for NGOs, journalists, and students and a promoter of domestic, regional, and trans-regional networking. The organization's principal mission is to strengthen the impact of

NGOs in Azerbaijan by organizing and maintaining a network of NGOs.

Inam organizes a wide array of education and training programs for NGO activists, young leaders, political party activists, trade unionists, and journalists. Topics range from the role of the Third Sector in a democratic society to free market economies as well as more practical subjects such as how to write a proposal and how to hold a meeting. Since 1993, Inam has organized more than 200 training events involving several thousands of participants. Inam's network of NGOs involves 300 representatives from more than 50 NGOs in Azerbaijan. Participants strengthen and expand this cooperative network by taking part in ongoing activities such as coordinating meetings, election observation, cooperative projects, information exchanges and the preparation of training and seminar programs.

In the spring of 2003, Inam helped found the SOS '03 Election League together with five other organizations with the aim of promoting free and fair elections in the country. The organization formulated suggestions for a revision of the country's electoral code in preparation for the fall 2003 presidential elections and has organized trainings and other events.

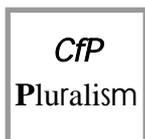
Inam has an ongoing publications program and publishes and distributes pamphlets on democratic theory, civil society, NGO management, human rights, and political, social, and economic issues. Since 1995, it has published several hundred pamphlets on these topics with total distribution in the tens of thousands. Inam published 8 issues of the Azeri-language *Centers for Pluralism Newsletter* and currently publishes a successor publication called *Third Sector*. This journal addresses these issues as they pertain to Azerbaijan, and also includes the results of organizational monitoring of the media.

Inam's plans for the next year include: (1) active participation in elections through training seminars for election observers and commission members as well as through monitoring of the pre-election, election, and post-election periods; (2) continuing its "Mission of Women Leaders" program, involving organizing seminars and publishing a book on the topic; (3) creating a Web site for the network

of NGOs to serve as a common resource material for members and the public; (4) continuing to translate and publish articles and books on issues of democratization, law, and human rights.

## Jaan Tõnisson Institute (JTI)

### Tallinn, Estonia



The Jaan Tõnisson Institute (JTI) is a non-profit, non-governmental research and training center, founded in 1991. It was established in honor of Jaan Tõnisson, one of the primary founders of the independent Estonian state in 1918 and a promoter of democratic values in Estonian society.

The aim of JTI is to foster democratic development and the strengthening of civil society in Estonia. In the spirit of Tõnisson's legacy, the Institute works to cultivate a political and civic democratic culture in Estonia and to promote citizen participation in decision-making processes.

JTI began its work around the time Estonian independence was restored, organizing political and local government training programs as well as research and projects on relations between Estonia and Russia. One of its most important programs was reaching out to the Russian minority community with educational programs on the Estonian constitution and how to participate in local municipal councils.

JTI currently carries out research programs and organizes training seminars, courses, workshops and information services for teachers, politicians, governmental and local authorities and members of NGOs. JTI was instrumental in creating the Roundtable of Estonian Non-Profit Organizations, which began in 2001 with 428 members as a public and open form of cooperation for Estonian non-profit organizations and serves as a public lobby for third sector interests. JTI has also been active in the formation of the Foundation for National Agreement, which was signed in February 2003 by a wide range of Estonian unions, associations and non-governmental organizations to strengthen and develop Estonian society and economy and to promote long term plans for improving the Estonian state. JTI's director is its first chairman.

The Jaan Tonisson Institute was among the first participants in the Centers for Pluralism and hosted the 4th Meeting of the CfPs.

## **Karta/Ryazan Memorial Center**

### **Ryazan, Russian Federation**



Karta/Ryazan Memorial Center is a regional branch of the Memorial Society, established in 1989 by activists from the democracy movement in Russia. Karta supports the development of human rights, civil society, and the independent press.

In 1992, with encouragement from the Polish Karta Center, it established the Karta Independent Historical and Human Rights Journal. The journal covers the modern history of the Soviet and Eastern European regimes, Gulag cartography, testimonies of victims of repression, memoirs of dissidents and research and analysis conducted by historians and human rights activists from various regions of Russia.

Since 1995, the organization has been involved in various civic education projects and has supported many non-profit organizations. It carries out a number of human rights campaigns, including promotion of a law on alternative civil service, and protests against espionage accusations against scholars and journalists. Karta/Memorial is working to develop a human rights network to encourage NGO and human rights activists to defend colleagues facing persecution. It also maintains a branch office in the Saskovski region, which serves as a base for the Saskovo "Choice of Conscience" Human Rights Center.

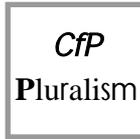
Karta/Memorial initiated the Interregional Human Rights Network, which includes organizations from more than 30 regions in Russia, and also maintains Human Rights Online, the network's internet site. This site provides comprehensive information on human rights, as well as computer and e-mail courses for activists, among other resources. Karta/Memorial also maintains its own Web site, as well as one especially devoted to the difficult situation in the North Caucasus region, entitled "War and Human Rights," which promotes halting the Chechen war and monitoring human rights abuses there. The Web site also provides daily updated Russian

language news, analysis of human rights violations in the region and a section in English.

Karta publishes the Russian-language version of the *Centers for Pluralism Newsletter* (19 issues to date), which provides information on NGOs in the CEE/FSU region as well as practical knowledge on issues related to the Third Sector for civic activists.

## **Kosova Action for Civic Initiatives (KACI)**

### **Prishtina, Kosova**



The Kosova Action for Civic Initiatives (KACI), founded in May 1998 as a continuation of the Koha Educational Foundation, is a multifaceted NGO based in Prishtina, Kosova involved in research, advocacy, and the promotion of civil society.

KACI's primary goal is to increase understanding of Kosovar politics and international developments with regard to the question of Kosova through research, analysis, information distribution, and discussion. KACI is also an action council for civic initiatives, providing support for NGOs in the form of training, study visits, direct support, and other means. It also coordinates common programs and helps NGOs get in touch with their counterparts in other parts of the world.

KACI is involved in advocacy through information campaigns and publications. The organization's research focuses on developments in Kosovar society and politics. It undertakes scientific studies on the society's demographic and socio-economic status, researches developments in the areas of democratization, and public opinion on various issues. KACI's publications, such as its ongoing study of municipal councils, election participation, and public opinion, have been widely used by international and domestic institutions. KACI publishes not only reference works but also theoretical discussion in the quarterly magazine, *Kosova and Balkan Observer*, which addresses recent and long-term social, cultural and economic issues that affect Kosova and the Balkans in general.

KACI also engages in capacity building for local organizations to help them pursue their own programs over the long term. Its election and campaign monitoring programs have

been very successful in mobilizing citizens and in ensuring free and fair elections.

From its beginnings, KACI was involved in the Centers for Pluralism participating in CfP Meetings and taking part in a wide range of internships in Hungary, Poland, and other countries. It has coordinated with several CfP Partners in its training of election monitors and in training NGO leaders.

## LATTA

### Grozny, Chechnya

CfP  
Pluralism

LATTA, founded in 2002, is a civic, informational, educational, and advocacy non-governmental organization, which works to monitor, research, and disseminate information about the situation in Chechnya and to promote peaceful resolutions to the war.

LATTA's members are long-standing civic and democracy activists in Chechnya. They monitor the situation on the ground and gather information in order to produce and distribute the monthly *Dispatches from Chechnya*, an information bulletin begun in September 2000. *Dispatches from Chechnya* provides first-hand reports on the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Chechnya and the refugee camps as well as information on Russian media coverage of the Chechen war. *Dispatches* was first prepared in cooperation with Lam, but is now prepared solely by LATTA, and is written by correspondents reporting from Chechnya and the refugee camps. *Dispatches* is distributed in English by IDEE to a wide range of opinion and policy makers, as well as the CfP Network, and is posted on IDEE's Web site ([www.idee.org](http://www.idee.org)).

In addition to *Dispatches*, Latta puts out publications and organizes seminars and conferences aimed at building a consensus around a democratic and peaceful end to the war in Chechnya and at promoting civic and democratic solutions to the vast problems confronting war-torn Chechnya. Its seminars are among the few forums for different parts of the Chechen community to discuss solutions to the conflict together.

## Liga Pro Europa

### Tirgu Mures, Romania

CfP  
Pluralism

Liga Pro Europa (the Pro-Europe League) is an independent, non-profit association founded in 1989 by democratic activists from Tirgu Mures (Transylvania, Romania). As one of the first non-governmental organizations in post-communist Romania, the Liga Pro Europa developed a variety of programs and projects aimed at:

- Fostering democratic development;
- Promoting European integration;
- Enhancing the capacity of civil society for intercultural dialogue.

Liga has a membership of 200 in Tirgu Mures and an additional 400 supporters and volunteers active in cities around Romania. Liga Pro Europa is an active member of the Centers for Pluralism Network, participating in regional and Network-wide meetings, hosting and participating in study tours, and helping coordinate regional activities with the Foundation for Pluralism.

Liga Pro Europa's programs developed a special importance as a result of the politically instigated ethnic violence in Tirgu Mures in 1990. They aimed at fostering dialogue, bringing communities together, combating intolerance and ethnic hatred, overcoming differences, and preventing violence. Liga's educational and training activities provide participants with the opportunity to engage in intercultural dialogue, scientific study, and practical interaction. The organization maintains four permanent programs:

- The Intercultural Center, started in 1993, is Liga Pro Europa's longest running and most successful program. It provides hundreds of young people with intercultural education and training in political and civic leadership. The program also prepares them to provide transparent and accountable public administration and intercultural management in the multiethnic region of Transylvania. Among the Center's major programs are "The Intercultural Academy of Transylvania," "Week of Tolerance," "Intercultural Forum," and the "Romanian-Hungarian Summer University." The Center publishes a newsletter, *Newsletter Pro Europa*, and a journal, *Altera*. In the coming year, the Center will

begin a new program, the "Transylvania Summer University."

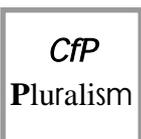
- The College of Democracy informs young students from the Tirgu Mures region about pluralist democracy and sustainable development at the community level. Programs include workshops, training courses, field visits, study tours, and the publication of essays written by participants. In 2003, the 9th class will graduate and the 10th session will commence.

- The Human Rights Office, founded in 1993, provides free counseling to persons whose rights have been violated, monitors human rights abuses by the government, and organizes training courses and roundtables for prosecutors, police officers and minority leaders in order to spread a culture of human rights in Romania. One of the Human Rights Office's priorities is to study and mediate the discriminatory treatment of the Roma through the "Roma Leaders' School," which educates Roma organizations on leadership and civic involvement.

- The Pluralism Program is focused on raising awareness of environmental issues, creating equal opportunities for women, promoting women in decision-making positions, NGO capacity development, and networking in the Tirgu Mures area.

## STINA Press Agency

### Split, Croatia



STINA Press Agency was begun in 1991 as an independent alternative to the dominant war and nationalist propaganda of the pro-government media. It maintains a regional network of journalists covering all developments of the Balkan war and post-war periods. Its articles have been used in independent press throughout the region and its reports have been featured on BBC, RFE/RL, Deutsche Welle, among other radio services. STINA also coordinates different projects supporting independent media in Croatia and neighboring countries.

In 1994, STINA became the coordinator and publisher of the Network of Independent Journalists (NIJ), and in 1997 of its Weekly Service, an online and e-mail news service that distributes articles from a variety of independ-

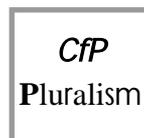
ent journalists throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union to independent media both in and outside the region. The Network of Independent Journalists includes around sixty journalists in twenty-five countries who report on events, problems, and processes affecting the transition from communism in their countries and regions.

The NIJ service provides information and comparative analysis on politics, democratic and civic development, the economy, human rights, media freedom, social development, ethnic relations and conflicts, conflict resolution, among other topics. The NIJ plans to improve and upgrade its network of correspondents, with special attention given to the regions of Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Balkans. NIJ will focus on post-conflict conditions in these regions. NIJ will also start many smaller, more specialized projects for individual topics, in an attempt to secure additional financial support for the continual development of the broader program.

Approximately 250 media outlets, NGOs, international organizations, as well as research and educational organizations from 30 countries use the NIJ Weekly Service, which has published 321 issues to date (it was suspended for the summer of 2003), with a total of more than 1,300 articles and reports. It is estimated that articles from each issue are republished on average 5 to 10 times.

## Supolnasc Civic Society Center

### Minsk, Belarus



Supolnasc was established in Minsk in December 1995 to address Belarusian society's lack of development and continued apathy and to build and maintain ongoing pro-democracy coalitions of like-minded people with the aim of helping to build democratic structures, promote democratic values, and foster an open, pluralistic society in an independent Belarus.

Supolnasc has organized a broad range of activities to further its goals, including training workshops, assisting NGOs to form and organize, especially in the regions, developing regional and national networks, educational programs, publishing, and coalition building. Supolnasc continues to act as an

umbrella organization to a network of NGOs, and provides them with a place to meet, the means to cooperate, and coordination for training sessions. Supolnasc places particular emphasis on local democratic initiatives and the media.

Supolnasc was a leading force in the creation of the Belarus Association of Pro-Democratic NGOs, serving as the first coordinator of its assembly and working group, and in fostering regional NGO coordinating groups. It is also an active participant in the Belarus Association of NGO Resource Centers. In 2001, Supolnasc coordinated training and regional programs for the non-partisan Mobilization Campaign Vybiraai (Choose) for the presidential elections, and its chairman served as the overall coordinator for the campaign.

In the last year, Supolnasc has worked to maintain the coalition of active NGOs built during the Mobilization Campaign as well as to support efforts to foster change around the municipal elections. It continues to build an ongoing NGO training capacity, network NGOs around common programs, and to build a national network of civics educators and independent journalists.

Supolnasc, a Center for Pluralism from its inception, has been one of the Network's most active members, participating in various region-wide activities, offering solidarity and supporting activities of other CfPs, taking advantage of study tours and internships in neighboring countries, and welcoming assistance from CfPs for Belarus's democratic struggle. It hosted the 14th Meeting of the Centers for Pluralism.

# WHO IS WHO PARTNERS

## **Azerbaijan National Democracy Foundation (ANDF) — Baku, Azerbaijan**



The Azerbaijan National Democracy Foundation (ANDF) was formed in April 1997 as a non-governmental organization committed to the development of independent political organizations, the strengthening of civil society, and the improvement of the distribution of information about public affairs. The Foundation works to educate Azerbaijani society on the history and evolution of democratic values in Azerbaijan, to teach human rights and democratic principles, and to establish and develop ties among the democratic movements in the region. Additionally, the Foundation remains committed to discouraging the expansion of religious fundamentalism and fanaticism, and campaigns for democracy and human rights in Azerbaijan.

ANDF organizes seminars to educate the public on elections and on the general role of NGOs in the democratic process. ANDF has also worked in cooperation with regional and international organizations to conduct workshops on various topics, such as political institutions, ethics in government, and NGO administration. The Foundation has initiated discussion clubs outside of urban areas in Azerbaijan to stimulate cooperation and democratic development there. For example, in late 2002 and the first three months of 2003, ANDF held more than 12 public forums through a CfP-supported small grants program.

Since 1997, ANDF has published and distributed over 30 publications covering the formation of civil society, the state of democracy, and the development of democratic coalitions in Azerbaijan. The Foundation most recently published the Azerbaijan Democracy Monitor, which reports on all aspects of civil society development in Azerbaijan, including economic, political and social issues, and has been especially useful during election cam-

paigns. This publication was produced in Azeri, English and Russian language editions, and has recently been expanded to internet and e-mail versions to reach a broader audience. Contributors range from NGO activists to journalists to political party representatives.

ANDF will continue its publications, citizen's participation, and educational and seminar activities and it is continuing its activities in the area of promoting free and fair elections, helping to found the SOS '03 NGO coalition, promote public discussions in the regions, and organizing major conferences.

## **APADOR-CH — Bucharest, Romania**



APADOR-CH (the Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania-Helsinki Committee), established in 1990, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that strives to change both legislation and social consciousness in the field of civil and human rights, especially in areas of individual freedoms, the right to privacy, fair trial, access to information, and on the rights of minorities.

APADOR-CH's strategy consists of monitoring and establishing a dialogue with authorities, by acting as a credible source of information for national and international non-governmental and governmental organizations.

The objectives of APADOR-CH are:

- To campaign for the modification of laws with direct impact on civil rights, such as the penal code, the criminal procedure code, the Law on National Security and the laws stemming from it, among others;
- To promote new legislation in the field of free access to information and the protection of personal data, the non-profit sector, protection of the rights of minorities — including ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities — the rights of prisoners, and persons in pre-trial detention;

- To provide assistance to victims of abuses perpetrated by police and by the penitentiary system, assessing objectively the cases and providing legal counseling and/or legal assistance in court

- To raise awareness of the general public on these issues

APADOR-CH accomplishes these goals by, among other activities: (1) providing written comments and suggestions to amend draft bills, especially by providing analysis on bringing Romanian legislation in conformity with European and international human rights conventions and standards; (2) conducting fact-finding missions and preparing reports on conditions of penitentiaries, police lock-ups, cases of torture or abuse, as well as attacks on minorities, (3) dissemination of these reports to proper authorities as well as to elected representatives and other interested parties, including NGOs and the media. Through its work and in coalition with other NGOs, APADOR-CH has had significant impact in the areas of public legislation and public opinion in many of these areas.

APADOR-CH is affiliated with the International Helsinki Federation in Vienna and participates in a wide number of international and European meetings and initiatives in the field of human and minority rights. APADOR-CH has worked in partnership with the Centers for Pluralism since its inception.

### **Association of Disabled Students — Belgrade, Serbia**



The Association of Disabled Students (ADS) is a non-governmental organization founded in 2000 to improve the position of young people and students with disabilities and to facilitate their integration into society. It is the first organization of its kind in Serbia and Montenegro. ADS has a growing network of partner organizations in Belgrade, Nis, Podgorica and Kragujevac, and has around 220 members.

ADS creates awareness of the challenges facing disabled people through media campaigns and publications, including its quarterly bulletin, *Bush*, and actively pursues the improvement of conditions for disabled young people by proposing legal changes and working with university and education officials,

local authorities, and social institutions to create facilities and opportunities for disabled people to break out of their isolation. ADS also organizes workshops and conferences to coordinate cooperation among possible partner organizations and provides psychological and health counseling to disabled young people. It cooperates extensively with other organizations, including Students' Union of Serbia and Volunteer Center Belgrade.

The ADS has ambitious plans for organizing educational outreach centers for disabled youth in order to provide them skills (computer, language, etc.) to obtain employment; providing technical devices to disabled to give them greater opportunity for education and employment; lobbying for greater access and accommodations for the disabled in general, especially at the university; offering psychosocial help to disabled youth; and organizing cultural events that give disabled youth a chance to be part of the student scene. Finally, ADS has established a network of organizations of disabled, concentrating on youth, in the Balkans, hoping that through greater cooperation there can be more progress made for the disabled in the region. It is looking for contacts, ideas, and outreach to similar organizations throughout the region, including former Soviet Union.

### **Center for Citizenship Education — Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



The Center for Citizenship Education (CCE) is a non-profit, independent NGO established to make a contribution to the promotion of a democratic and civil society in Mongolia.

CCE was founded in 1992 under the name "Central Asian Development Foundation," which changed into the current name in 1996. The Center has been implementing its project, "Education for Democracy" since 1993.

The Center for Citizenship Education's goals are to contribute to the creation of conditions that will enable citizens of Mongolia to associate freely and actively participate in social, state and government affairs; to promote democratic values; and to enhance teachers' knowledge of democracy and to have them learn new teaching methodologies and techniques.

In pursuit of this goal, CCE has undertaken a variety of effective activities:

- In support of NGOs, CCE promotes new laws on NGOs, and give them professional consultation through seminars and training;
- Publish books and other materials for use of the public, NGO staff, and volunteers
- Set up an NGO clearinghouse which provides central and local NGOs with information regarding Mongolian and foreign NGOs;
- Facilitate secondary school social science teachers' learning of new methodologies and techniques of teaching democracy in classrooms by coordinating programs, with the purpose of helping the Mongolian education system meet the demands of current conditions;
- Write, translate and publish textbooks, pamphlets, and reading books on the subjects of democracy, human rights, jurisprudence, and economics for use by teachers and students of all levels.

### **Center of Information and Documentation of Crimean Tatars — Kyiv, Ukraine**



The Center of Information and Documentation of Crimean Tatars (CIDCT) is a non-governmental, non-commercial organization founded in 2000. The primary task of CIDCT is to develop and disseminate information on:

- the history and modern development of Crimea and the Crimean Tatar people;
- the problems connected with their return to their historic homeland after decades of forced deportation; and
- the restoration of the Crimean Tatar people's political, social, economic and cultural rights within independent Ukraine.

CIDCT publishes the informational journal *Krimski Studii* (Crimean Studies) in English and in Ukrainian, published six times per year. This journal is distributed free of charge to members of the Ukrainian Parliament, ministries and departments of the government (especially the humanitarian offices), libraries of leading high schools of Kyiv and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the parliament and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, foreign

embassies, and missions of international organizations and NGOs. CIDCT also monitors the Ukrainian mass media on issues related to Crimea and Crimean Tatars. All materials are organized and published in an electronic bulletin, *Crimea Mirrored in Ukrainian Mass Media*, distributed every ten days.

CIDCT conducts research on legal norms and mechanisms related to the situation of Crimean Tatars that can then be used to create legislative initiatives. CIDCT also conducts seminars, round tables and conferences on human rights, national minorities and indigenous peoples' rights. CIDCT opened its own Web site <http://www.cidct.org.ua>, which includes all issues of the informational bulletin *Krimski studii*. In the near future, CIDCT plans to create an electronic library, which will contain the normative legal documents of governmental bodies on the topics of the development of Ukraine and the return and resettlement of the Crimean Tatar people, including the work of both Ukrainian and foreign researchers on Crimean Tatars, Karaites and Krimchaks.

Refat Chubarov, member of the Ukrainian Parliament and the deputy chairman of Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, is CIDCT's president and Ayder Ibragimov is executive director. CIDCT strives to extend its circle of partners to increase mutual exchange of experiences and to stimulate cooperation in the realization of projects aimed at building civil society.

### **Center for Political Studies "Democrat" (CPSD) — Baku, Azerbaijan**



The Center for Political Studies "Democrat" (CPSD), established in 1999, is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of democratic values and ideas and disseminating information about Azerbaijan's democratic movement.

In its four years of existence, CPSD has successfully carried out a number of projects, including the publication of two books and six bulletins and brochures on various subjects related to democratic development in Azerbaijan, including a brochure "Public Relations" and the Azeri translation of the

book "The Second Wave of Reforms in Poland." It published eight issues of an analytical-informational bulletin called "Elections 2000" and starting in 2001 the Bulletin of the Democratic Congress.

Another successful project of CPRD was the establishment of a Hot Line to help protect citizens' electoral rights. During the 2000 parliamentary elections, CPRD's Hot Line became a focal point to collect information on the country-wide cases of violation of election procedures. This project enabled citizens to use Hot Line to quickly report about procedural violations during elections and get legislative advice at no charge. These findings were used to prepare ten comprehensive reports in English and Azeri, which were then publicized locally and internationally. In addition, the Hot Line was used to provide informational support and free legal consultations to the hundreds of citizens. During the August 24, 2002 referendum on constitutional amendments, CPRD set up another Hot Line to help protect voters' rights and prepared and distributed a detailed report on the referendum results in Azerbaijan and abroad.

CPRD helped form and is an active participant in the SOS '03 Election League to help ensure free and fair elections for the 2003 presidential elections and CPRD's director was appointed the SOS '03 coordinator.

### **Democracy Education Center — Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



The Democracy Education Center (DEC) is a Mongolian non-governmental, non-profit, non-partisan organization aimed at strengthening civil society through education, promotion of democracy, and support of active citizenship. The mission of the DEC is carried out through two programs: a democracy education program and an NGO support services program.

The DEC started the NGO Support Center project under the auspices of the Asia Foundation. After the NGO law was passed in 1997, the DEC organized a series of workshops, seminars, and NGO networking meetings for Mongolian NGO leaders and personnel throughout the country. In the past years, the DEC has delivered many services to assist Mongolian NGOs by providing information, counseling, and assistance with

resource materials development and its dissemination.

The DEC served as a facilitator and organizer of the "Financial Sustainability of Local NGOs of Mongolia" seminar, initiated and co-sponsored by the Asia Foundation and Peace Winds Japan, with the support of the Grass Roots Development Programme of the Japanese government, which took place in September, 2000 in Ulaanbaatar. As a follow-up activity, the DEC organized a series of regional multi-stakeholder dialogues on NGO capacity-building throughout the country in late 2000.

With support from IDEE, the DEC has recently initiated the publication of a CfP-model *Newsletter* in Mongolian to report on the activities of NGOs in Mongolia, and to provide NGOs with information on contacts abroad, grant opportunities, internships, training, and articles devoted to the current problems and successes of the NGO sector in Mongolia as well as in other countries.

### **Directorio 5—Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Directorate — Miami, USA**



Directorio Cubano Revolucionario Directoria was formed in September 1990 by 200 young Cuban and Cuban-American delegates dedicated to promoting democracy in Cuba. This organization continues the legacy of a movement started in Cuba in the late 1920s and kept alive by pro-democracy Cuban youth in successive "Directorios." The Directorio formed in 1990 became the fifth.

Directorio 5 immediately took to the task of organizing young Cubans and creating an avenue for their active participation in issues that affect the Cuban nation. The organization's mission is:

- To rescue the Cuban national culture by fostering the identification of new generations of Cubans and Cuban-Americans with the Cuban nation;
- To promote freedom and democracy in Cuba in the face of the current dictatorship;
- To involve Cuban youth, inside and outside of Cuba, in the process of eliminating the Castro dictatorship and establishing a new system of democratic government in Cuba.

The Directorio favors non-violent action to weaken the Cuban government from within, creating international support to pressure the Cuban government from without, and uniting those opposing the government inside the island with those outside in order to create an effective force for change. To achieve these goals, the Directorio has pursued numerous avenues including educational lectures, Cuban youth retreats, international campaigns in Latin America and Europe, radio broadcasts to Cuba, grass roots protests, and aiding the Cuban internal opposition.

The Directorio has continued to support the internal opposition movement and participates, together with other exile organizations, in a coalition of support called Concilio Cubano. Concilio Cubano is a project launched inside Cuba to unite the opposition and independent organizations under a single front. The Directorio's "Agreement for Democracy" brought together Cuban, Cuban American, Latin American, and other organizations in a common statement supporting the goals of the Concilio.

The Directorio has launched Operacion Boitel, a campaign aimed at bringing the truth about Cuba to Latin America, especially to the youth. Through this campaign, the Directorio has held seminars on Cuba in the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chile and Mexico and created a coalition of Latin American Committees of Solidarity with Democracy in Cuba.

Today, the Directorio is seeking to expand its activities in all areas, from educating a new generation of Cubans about their identity and role in the struggle, to creating stronger ties with the internal opposition, to expanding Operacion Boitel to other countries in Latin-America and the world. One of its most important initiatives in the last several years was its participation in the Centers for Pluralism Meetings and organizing numerous campaigns with Eastern European democratic leaders in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Poland, Romania, and Russia on behalf of Cuban political prisoners and dissidents. A CfP initiative coordinated by Apador-CH's Gabriel Andreescu established the Pedro Luis Boitel Award awarded annually for a Cuban democracy activist. Funds were collected exclusively from among Eastern European NGOs.

## **Euroregional Center for Democracy - Timisoara, Romania**



The Euroregional Center for Democracy (CED) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization founded in 2001 by the Open Society Foundation Romania to promote democracy and stability in Central and Southeastern Europe. Its goals are:

- \* To build and consolidate democracy by providing innovative ongoing and long-term opportunities for communication through interactive seminars, workshops, panels, in order to help democratic institutions;

- \* To promote partnership between regional, national and local non-governmental organizations and institutions and help them develop regional projects, as well as undertake joint efforts;

- \* To strengthen the institutional capacity of the NGO community through programs that ensure the development of available human resources, as well as of the organizational, institutional and legal framework in order to facilitate the elaboration of long-term strategies for viability and sustainability;

- \* To raise regional community awareness of common transition-related issues and of the relationship between diversity and democracy by initiating debates on contentious issues in order to overcome prejudices, stereotypes and isolation.

The Euroregional Center for Democracy has organized three annual Regional NGO Fairs, which give civil society representatives from South Eastern Europe the chance to network, share best practices, and discover new areas of cooperation or activity. It organizes training, education for democracy, academic, and other programs related to the region. The Euroregional Center for Democracy is a member of the Soros Open Network, which connects Romanian independent organizations whose common aim is to promote open society values.

## **Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation — Sofia, Bulgaria**



The Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation (FDBF) is a private and fully independent non-profit organization. Founded on June

14, 1991 by Yvonne and Dimitry Panitza, its Chairman, the Foundation aims to facilitate the process of democratization of Bulgarian society, based on pluralism, free press, free markets, tolerance, an educated youth, and open dialogue.

The Foundation's activities include the establishment of two centers to meet the physical, emotional and educational needs of Sofia's street children and youth; the creation of the first Outward Bound Program in Eastern Europe; civic education programs; and an annual excellence-in-journalism prize, aimed at promoting ethical professional standards in Bulgarian journalism. The Foundation also supports the publication of books that could not otherwise reach the Bulgarian reader.

More recently, the FDBF has become involved with the prevention of drug use and abuse among young people of Bulgaria through lectures in schools and through the dissemination of a guide for parents and teachers, aimed at raising awareness and knowledge on the problem among them.

Since 2001, the Foundation has been implementing, together with the Dutch NGO East West Parliamentary Practice Project, a three-year project to help parliamentarians find mechanisms for gaining community members support for new legislation and to address ways of increasing citizens' involvement in the lawmaking process.

Another initiative of the Foundation is the Bulgarian School of Politics, begun in 2002, which is designed to encourage the creation of a professional political community that will adopt and implement a new democratic model of government. The young politicians participating in the School's seminars acquire new leadership skills and democratic practices of decision-making in an environment of pluralism and tolerance. Participation of politicians with different ideological, ethnic and religious background ensures the formation of a new type of political and social debate pertinent to Bulgaria's sustainable democratic development.

The FDBH was the original home of the first Center for Pluralism and a number of ongoing programs began with the support of the CfP program. FDBH remains an active participant in CfP meetings and initiatives.

## Foundation for Defense of Human Rights — Warsaw, Poland



The Foundation for Defense of Human Rights was established in 1998 at the initiative of Senator Zbigniew Romaszewski and Zofia Romaszewska with the specific aim to organize the Third International Conference on Human Rights held in Warsaw, Poland. The International Conference was first organized by the Romaszewskis in 1988 in Nowa Huta under the umbrella of Solidarity's Lawfulness Commission. It gathered for the first time — before the fall of the Berlin Wall — human rights and democracy advocates from throughout the Warsaw Bloc. The second International Conference was organized in 1991 in Leningrad (when conditions made it impossible to hold in Vilnius). The Third International Conference on Human Rights highlighted the continuing human rights crises in countries like Azerbaijan, Cuba, and China, as well as the terrible consequences of Russia's first war in Chechnya.

The FDHR's further mission is to promote human rights and to monitor their observance in countries undergoing transition from communist totalitarianism, such as Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine, as well as in countries where communist regimes remain in power or where the transition from communism has meant the perpetuation of dictatorial rule by former communist or KGB leaders. The Foundation also believes it is very important to share the experiences of the successful fight against the totalitarian systems over the last twenty years with people who are still struggling.

In 2001, following successive trips to Cuba, the FDHR organized a Solidarity poster exhibition throughout the island. The poster exhibition and accompanying brochure described the history of the Solidarity movement struggle of the Polish nation against communism.

## GONG — Citizens' United to Monitor Elections — Zagreb, Croatia



GONG is a non-partisan citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to participate actively in political processes. It is a non-profit organization, reliant upon support and donations from many generous donors

from the Croatian and international community.

GONG is involved in several important activities:

- Conducting non-partisan monitoring of election processes;
- Educating citizens about their rights and duties;
- Encouraging mutual communication between citizens and their elected representatives;
- Promoting transparency of work within public services;
- Managing public advocacy campaigns; and
- Encouraging and helping citizens in self-organizing initiatives.

GONG pursues several programs, including its Election Program, Parliament Program and International Relations Program. Programs are divided into several projects. Its Election Program includes: election monitoring, civic education, the "I Vote (Choose) for the First Time" project, and "Election Package." The Parliament Program includes: "Citizens' Hour," "Open Parliament," an internship program, and legal initiatives. The International Relations program includes trainings and consultations, election monitoring abroad, and international exchanges. Accurate information about all GONG projects and activities can be found at [www.gong.hr](http://www.gong.hr) in both Croatian and English.

GONG has participated in CfP meetings and assisted several CfPs and partners in election monitoring efforts, especially in Kosovo.

### **Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights — Warsaw, Poland**



The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, located in Warsaw, Poland, was established in 1989. Its emergence was preceded by seven years of work by the Helsinki Committee in Poland, which had operated underground since 1982. In 1989, members decided to establish an independent institute for education, research on human rights, and public interest actions.

The Foundation's six-month postgraduate Human Rights School, established in 1991, now has a total of over 500 graduates from

Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the West, who continue to use their acquired knowledge in their individual communities. The school's courses are offered in a variety of forms: two-week lectures, workshops within the Summer and Winter Schools on Human Rights, as well as seminars of at least one week, held in Poland or abroad. The Foundation's main focus is to train activists from non-governmental organizations, but the School also offers seminars for Polish and foreign judges, ombudsmen's offices, etc.

The Helsinki Foundation gives professional counseling on matters related to violations of personal and political rights. Experts at the Foundation are especially helpful in assisting those seeking refugee status and residence permits in Poland.

The Foundation is also involved in implementing education programs for the benefit of NGOs and state institutions such as police departments, prisons, frontier guards, etc. Several training courses have been organized by the Foundation have been very successful, attracting attendees from several dozen national NGOs and over 100 foreign organizations.

Based on the cooperation of the over 200 volunteers the Helsinki Foundation has trained, the Foundation monitors human rights observance on a national basis, and organizes public actions on behalf of those rights. The Foundation has implemented several joint programs and activities together with international organizations, organizations in other countries such as national Helsinki Committees, the OSCE, as well as with domestic partners.

The Helsinki Foundation was an original "partner" of the Centers for Pluralism, participating in its Meetings and responding to requests for training and participation in the Human Rights School, hosting interns, and providing information.

### **Institute for Regional Studies — Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**



The Institute for Regional Studies (previously the Kyrgyz Peace Research Center) is a non-governmental organization founded in Kyrgyzstan in November 1994. The Institute

is committed to supporting democratic processes in Central Asia.

The Institute carries out research, organizes seminars and conferences, and publishes articles and books. In order to provide a mechanism for effective changes in society, training programs involving the residents of the Kyrgyz Republic are conducted on issues of human rights, citizenship, and conflict prevention and resolution. Furthermore, the Institute provides Kyrgyz citizens with broad access to information, especially on democracy, previously difficult to acquire in Central Asia. The Institute encourages citizens to participate in public life, enhance stability and develop civil society in the region. The Institute also seeks to maintain inter-ethnic and religious peace by conducting research and making recommendations to decision-makers.

The Institute's activities include:

- Program on Sustainable Development in Central Asia: The Institute organizes round table discussions, conferences and seminars on pertinent issues of regional development, such as inter-ethnic relation and the prevention of conflict. These meetings bring together academics, experts, policy-makers, community leaders and NGO representatives to discuss the regional situation from a variety of perspectives.

- Civic Education and Training Program: This program seeks to strengthen civil society and to influence positive changes in society. The program involved the training of community leaders, NGO activists, and secondary school teachers to support, cultivate and further develop citizens' democratic skills. Publications on these topics are a large part of this program as well.

- Civic Education and Human Rights: Each year, the Institute carries out 10-day winter schools for high school teachers, which have been conducted in partnership with the Kyrgyz Institute for Education since 1998.

- Gender Studies Unit: This part of the Institute works with issues of gender equality in society and conducts research and organizes seminars on various relevant topics

The Institute also maintains a rapidly expanding Resource Center with literature on democracy, conflict prevention and resolution, civic education, and political and social development in Central Asia.

## Institute of Statehood and Democracy — Kyiv, Ukraine



The Institute of Statehood and Democracy, founded in the early 1990s as an initiative by the Popular Movement of Ukraine "Rukh," is a non-governmental, non-partisan research and educational institute, whose principal aims are:

- To advance the idea of Ukrainian statehood;
- To assist in the development of democratic values, the building of a law-based society, and the formulation of an independent national policy.

The Institute's main initiative has been to establish and run a program of study in politics and governance in Ukraine in order to promote the education and skills of Ukraine's political leaders. The Institute is also working to improve the results of democratic candidates and parties during elections in Ukraine.

The Institute regularly conducts seminars, conferences, and symposia and holds training courses for civic and political activists. These activists are chosen from all social strata from among those who have demonstrated a commitment to civic and political activism. The Institute engages all democratic activists and focuses its activity on Ukraine's eastern and southern regions.

The Institute of Statehood and Democracy also provides in-depth analysis of draft legislation and distributes analytical briefs to parliament members in order to encourage alternative legislation. The Institute currently provides legislative support to the largest democratic faction in Ukraine's parliament, "Nasha Ukraina" (Our Ukraine). The organization regularly publishes books and informational brochures and an electronic bulletin, "The Rukh Insider." The Institute is also responsible for translating and publishing the Ukrainian-language *Centers for Pluralism Newsletter*, which is geared towards Ukrainian NGOs, and for publishing the latest issue of the main English-language *Centers for Pluralism Newsletter* and the CfP Tenth Anniversary publication.

In addition, the Institute is working to form a coalition of civic organizations to support democratic change during the next elections due in 2004.

## Lam — Grozny, Chechnya



Lam (meaning “mountain” in Chechen) was founded in 1996 to preserve Chechnya’s intellectual and cultural heritage and promote education and human values in society. Since 1999, it has worked to find a peaceful solution to the Russian war against Chechnya and to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees, including advising international relief organizations on how best to deliver humanitarian aid.

Before the current war, Lam focused on preserving Chechnya’s intellectual and cultural heritage. It produced and distributed recordings of musical, theatrical, and dance programs, published books on cultural topics, and organized regular meetings of intellectuals on cultural, legal and human rights topics.

Originally based in Grozny, Lam has had to organize many of its activities out of Nazran and out of the Sakharov Museum in Moscow since the second war began. Lam has disseminated information about the crisis and about Russian war crimes, carried out democratic education programs in schools and refugee camps, and organized conferences and seminars drawing together Chechens from across the political spectrum. Originally, Lam produced Dispatches from Chechnya (now prepared by a separate organization Latta). In its information dissemination efforts, Lam works closely with the Andrei Sakharov Museum in Moscow and IDEE.

Lam has also organized several major conferences bringing together Chechen and other representatives in forums to find a way out of the crisis and an end to the war. Lam’s representatives have also brought its message of the necessity for a democratic Chechnya to Europe and North America. In the spring of 2000 Lam became a Chechen Center for Pluralism and is currently a partner organization.

## Lion Society — Lviv, Ukraine



The Lion Society was founded in 1987 and officially registered in 1989 — one of the first non-governmental organizations in Soviet Ukraine and among the oldest in independent Ukraine. During its first years, the main goal of the organization was the development of

Ukrainian independence through the promotion of youth activism in such areas as politics, culture, education, and ecology. In 1989, the Lion Society established the first independent newspaper in Ukraine — Postup (“Progress”). In the first democratic elections, two members of the Lion Society were elected to the Ukrainian Parliament and a number of other organization members were elected to local administrative posts.

The Lion Society’s mission is to support democratic initiatives in Ukraine and in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and to preserve and promote the cultural-historical heritage of Ukraine as an important part of establishing a democratic independent Ukraine. To accomplish these goals, the organization engages in education, ecology, regional studies, publishing, and consultative activities. The Lion Society also currently maintains the West-Ukrainian Resource Center (WURC), which supports NGOs in the region.

One of the main activities of the Lion Society is its work with NGOs, educational institutions, and local administrations through seminars, training sessions, publication of instructional literature, and conducting ecological and culture-related activities. The Lion Society is part of several training networks in Ukraine and Central and Eastern Europe.

The “Dniester” campaign, which the Lion Society has organized since 1988, is a series of expeditions into various regions to Western Ukraine for the purpose of researching the state of well-known and lesser-known architectural and historical memorials, amassing collections of folkloric materials, recording local customs, ceremonies and medicinal practices of the peoples of the Dniester watershed. Research is also conducted on flora and fauna in the region. The findings of these expeditions are well reported in books and articles. This initiative is now a three-year joint German-Ukrainian project involving the monitoring of the Dniester for environmental damage.

The Lion Society’s current projects include “Support for Democratic Initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe,” which develops cooperation among NGOs and local governmental administrations; intensifying the work of NGOs and student self-government and con-

ducting research on the Third Sector; among other activities. The Lion Society is also pursuing research and programs for secondary students and adults on the topics of "Historiography and Regional Studies," along with an essay competition on the topic of Lviv and Ukrainian history. The Society's program, "Cultural Studies and Ecology," is carried out in connection with the annual "Dniester" campaign in Lviv and other districts, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of the natural and cultural world.

The Lion Society hosted the 17th Meeting of the Centers for Pluralism in Lviv in April 2002 and is IDEE's initiating and partner organization for the program "Tourism and Community Development in Ukraine," which is building local Citizen Tourism Committees in an effort to promote public-private partnerships to build communities through tourism based on cultural heritage, history, and the environment.

### **PRIMA – Moscow, Russia**



The Moscow Human Rights News Agency PRIMA distributes news relating to human rights conditions in Russia, the former Soviet Union, and other parts of the world. The PRIMA Agency was founded in February 2000 as the successor to the Express-Chronicle human rights newspaper, which had been published in Moscow since 1987.

PRIMA receives information from its own network of correspondents throughout Russia, Belarus, and the other republics of the former Soviet Union as well as reports from different correspondents, cooperating organizations, and individuals on political events and human rights in Cuba, China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Iraq, Iran, Nigeria, among many others. Since 2000, PRIMA has published daily news reports with various items from different countries together with longer news reports and analyses on key events. PRIMA focuses on issues that are not in the general press: forced organ transplantation and mass executions of religious believers in China; the widespread repression of the highland Montagnards in Vietnam; the ongoing war against the Chechen people; and the ongoing political use of psychiatry around the world. PRIMA's reporting on the

dissident movement in Cuba has been cited by many observers as the best in the field.

Current news items (as well as an archives) can be found on PRIMA's Web site ([www.prima-news.ru](http://www.prima-news.ru)) or can be E-mailed on a subscription basis to mass media outlets both domestically and internationally.

### **Support Center for Democratic Elections — Baku, Azerbaijan**



The Support Center for Democratic Elections (SCDE) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1997 by a group of political scientists, sociologists, lawyers, and election experts. The main goal of the Center is to promote free, fair, and democratic elections, and to ensure a system of democracy in Azerbaijan.

To accomplish these goals, the Center:

- studies and advocates the values and practices of democracy;
- promotes free and fair elections;
- analyzes the legislative system in Azerbaijan and makes proposals regarding reforms in the legal system, including legislative acts; and
- assists citizens to increase their level of activity in democratic processes.

SCDE is involved in organizing seminars on democracy and democratic institutions, produces publications, organizes election monitoring, and organizes and participates in round tables of political and NGO leaders.

In carrying out its activities, SCDE works with 12 political parties, but has affiliation with none of them and maintains a non-partisan stance. SCDE works extensively in cooperation with other international and domestic organizations. In the recent past, the organization has printed brochures on democratic institutions with Inam, held seminars on elections and local administration with the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, participated in arranging and transmitting educational programs on elections on Space TV with the support of the U.S. Public Affairs Bureau, and carried out programs to mobilize voters with the assistance of IDEE, among other activities. For the current elections, SCDE is also working with the election coalition SOS '03.

## Student Union of Serbia — Belgrade, Serbia



The Student Union of Serbia was founded in 1993 at the Economics Faculty of Belgrade University with the aim of promoting democratic values at the university, represent student interests, and opposing the anti-democratic regime of Slobodan Milosovic. Despite ongoing pressure and repression, SUS expanded to all five university centers and was at the center of the democratic protests of 1993, 1996-97, and 2000 and organized the Anti-War Campaign to oppose Milosevic's police and military brutalities in Kosovo leading up to the war. In the 2000 elections, SUS was an active participant of the Izlaz 2000 NGO campaign to mobilize voters for changes.

After succeeding in the struggle for basic democratic changes in Serbia, SUS changed its focus to overcome the damage to the university system during the Milosevic dictatorship and to struggle for a modern and open-minded university and society in general. With the collapse of the old regime's student and university structures, the SUS has emerged as the largest student organization -- and NGO --- in Serbia, representing nearly 20,000 members at nearly all faculties in Serbia.

The SUS's national campaign targets new members, new faculties and strengthens faculty structures. The Union raises awareness on important issues for the reform of Serbian universities such as the modernization of curricula, quality assurance, corruption, and student participation in the university community. SUS has initiated training workshops to educate freshman and younger students on how to expand the union and stimulate discussion of reform in the university.

The SUS is involved in all aspects of university reform, sitting on government and legislative committees, organizing major national conferences promoting European standards, and educating its members and students generally on important issues of university reform and how they can achieve change at their faculties.

The SUS is highly active in the European Union of National Student Unions and is represented in leading positions in the secretari-

at and executive committee. Working in cooperation with ESIB, as well as IDEE, SUS has begun training programs in Belarus for the Belarus Student Association and in Azerbaijan.

## Tashkent Public Education Center — Tashkent, Uzbekistan



The Tashkent Public Education Center (TPEC) was formed in 1995 to promote civic education reform for Uzbekistan's educators and schools. The Center develops civic education curricula and teaching strategies, publishes civics materials, and conducts training sessions for educators.

Since 1995, more than 1,000 teachers, college students and NGO leaders from all over Central Asia have taken part in TPEC's training workshops. These workshops include training in both civic content as well as methodology, encouraging teachers to use participative educational methods that will foster student's independent thinking.

TPEC has published two textbooks for use in Uzbek schools: "The Constitution and Us," which presents the history of participatory democracy and explains the principles outlined in the current constitution of Uzbekistan; and "The ABCs of Citizenship," which describes the basic tenets of democracy. The Center also publishes a newsletter entitled "Public Dialogue," which is distributed to more than 500 readers. The newsletter features civics lesson plans and information about textbooks, conferences for teachers, and analyses of the problems facing the Third Sector.

TPEC has helped coordinate a number of training and education programs for counterparts throughout Central Asia. It also serves as a regional partner organization for IDEE's "Networking Women in Central Asia Program," which brought together more than 50 women NGO leaders from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as well as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, for training and networking. Through this program, more than 12 cross-border projects were initiated.

In 2002, during a "Networking Women" study tour to the United States, TPEC's director, Muborak Tashpulotova, was among five women given the NED's Democracy Award for their efforts to promote democracy.

## Viasna Human Rights Center – Minsk, Belarus



The Viasna Human Rights Center is a non-governmental organization that offers legal support to members of various political parties, NGOs, trade unions, youth organizations as well as their families, people under criminal prosecution for political reasons, families of missing political figures, low-income groups in the population, people who have suffered from the actions of police, and minors, students and others fired from employment without grounds.

Viasna has 17 local branches in Navapolatsk, Mahilow, Brest, Hrodna, Babruisk, Baranavichy, Barysaw, Viaroza, Vitebsk, Kastsjukovivichy, Lida, Kobryn, Mazyr, Maladetchna, Pinsk, Svetlahorsk, and Slutsk.

**Informational Program:** Viasna produces a biweekly bulletin entitled “Right to Freedom” in Belarusian, Russian and English and also contributes articles on human rights and democracy to other media sources such as *Nasha Svaboda*, *Narodnaya Vola*, and *Rabochy*. The Center’s Web site ([www.spring96.org](http://www.spring96.org)) provides human rights monitoring information. Viasna also compiles an annual *Chronicle Review of Human Rights Violations in Belarus*, which has been highly successful.

**Educational Program:** This program consists of lectures and seminars on human rights and is intended for varied audiences. Viasna has organized numerous lectures for

local human rights advocates, students, public activists, and teachers – many in cooperation with international organizations.

**Public Reception Room:** The Public Reception Room provides legal assistance by giving legal advice, participation of Viasna lawyers in trials, assisting with legal applications and appeals, and monitoring of criminal cases, trials and street actions.

**Participation in Independent Observation:** Viasna has organized several election monitoring programs and has mobilized large numbers of domestic and international observers for this cause. For the 2001 election, Viasna’s observers met with obstacles coming from the government’s authorities, but the monitors managed to gather information concerning violations during different stages of the election campaign. The observers then filed hundreds of complaints to central and regional election commissions, Prosecutor’s offices and courts concerning serious violations of the election code.

**Public Actions and Campaigns:** Viasna has organized rallies and demonstrations in Belarus for the purpose of championing human rights, protesting the disappearance of certain politicians, censorship and the government’s anti-Semitic acts.

**Cooperation with other NGOs:** Viasna is an active member of the Assembly of Democratic Non-governmental Organizations in Belarus, and also maintains close contact with international human rights organizations and provides information on the human rights situation in Belarus to the international community.