

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Eurasia Regional
Program Title:	Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	110-0210
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$895,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$321,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$838,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1992
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

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

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$505,000 FSA). The Regional Networking Program (RNP) strengthens the capacity of local NGOs and think tanks to inform public opinion and to influence public policy in order to accelerate the region's transition to open political and economic systems. FY 2004 priorities include grants for cross-border reform projects between Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Eurasia organizations, and a conference to share lessons learned between professionals promoting the development of the NGO sectors in the region. The principal grantee is Freedom House.

The NGO Legal Reform Initiative (NGOLRI) will continue to develop legal frameworks that allow NGOs to play a constructive role in their communities. FY2004 activities include regional workshops, analytical publications and comparative surveys, fellowship programs, and educational activities, with an emphasis on sharing lessons between CEE and Eurasia. The principal grantee is the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

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

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

Support for independent media (\$200,000 FSA). The Regional Media Program strengthens independent print and broadcast media in the region by creating linkages between journalists and other media professionals throughout the region and encouraging coverage of issues of regional importance. FY 2004 priorities include encouraging more cross border and regional investigative reporting; monitoring media legal issues, including the drafting and implementation of media laws; defining best practices in media development; and assessing and ranking media systems in the region through the Media Sustainability Index (MSI). The principal grantee is the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

Program development support (\$65,000 FSA; \$321,094 FSA carryover). The above program areas will be supported by program-funded technical staff and related support.

FY 2005 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$503,620 FSA). In FY 2005, RNP will finalize its efforts to consolidate a regional network of NGOs, with continued emphasis on transferring CEE reform experience to Eurasia countries. The NGOLRI will continue to share NGO law lessons between CEE and Eurasia. Ninth editions of the NGOSI and NIT will be published. Technical assistance will be provided to USAID missions and partners to help them develop approaches and tools to incorporate lessons learned from the NGO financial viability study.

Support for independent media (\$80,000 FSA). The Regional Media Program will continue to support regional and cross-border media development activities, creating linkages between journalists in different countries. USAID will increase support to cross-border issues, including investigative reporting of trafficking in persons activities. The MSI and media conference will also be supported, creating valuable resources for journalists from around the region.

Program development support (\$254,740 FSA). Program-funded staff and related support will continue to support the above program areas.

Performance and Results: RNP awarded over 40 grants to NGOs in the region to advance democratic reforms. NGOLRI regional activities supported efforts to amend tax legislation affecting NGOs in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine; and a Eurasia/CEE conference on social partnerships resulted in the adoption of legislation encouraging partnerships in Ukraine, and the drafting of legislation in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

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