



## **Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe**

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# **Annual Report 2006**

Board of Trustees

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# Contents

<b>Chair's letter</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive Letter</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Projects from the first phase (2001-2005)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cross-Border Initiative</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Community Foundations Development Fund</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Out of the Call Grants</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Audit Report (See Attachment)</b>	<b>45</b>

## ***Chair's letter***

In 2006, after undergoing an intense assessment of the state and the needs of civil society in the seven countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the CEE Trust began to implement a new strategic framework aimed at strengthening key processes and relationships that lead to a vibrant civil society. Our new approach recognizes that civil society and the nonprofit sector in Central and Eastern Europe are undergoing important transitions:

- Civil society actors are moving away from the struggle to rebuild democracy and toward efforts to make sure that democracy works for everyone;
- Civil society organizations are shifting from mostly private and foreign support to mostly public and local support; and
- The face of civil society is changing and expanding from a few large, activist nonprofits to a culture of civic engagement and activism.

Since the founding of the CEE Trust in 2000, the region has changed dramatically. All seven of the countries in which the Trust operates now have joined the European Union. However, many political analysts and civil society activists are concerned that political instability and the rise in populism and nationalism point to “reform fatigue” after the long and costly process of EU integration. The next several years will be crucial in determining the future of Central and Eastern European countries as they strive to take advantage of the opportunities and to address the challenges of EU membership.

The board is enthusiastic about our new strategic framework and its potential to strengthen and sustain core civil society organizations, at the same time encouraging and motivating civic activists and citizen movements to address the critical issues facing the region.

On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank Martin Butora, Phil Henderson, and Bill Moody, all of whom rotated off the board this year. They devoted their time, talents, and energy to the development of a new direction for the Trust, and we are indebted to them.

Sustaining healthy democracies and building a strong and vibrant civil society in this region will be a long undertaking. We are pleased that the CEE Trust can assist in this process.

Maureen H. Smyth  
*Chair of the Board*

## ***Executive Letter***

The seven Central and Eastern European countries, where the CEE Trust works experienced a trying year of transition. Our five member states, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia, have been busy adjusting their institutions to the realities of the European Union. The other two, Bulgaria and Romania, successfully overcame the last hurdles of the accession process. Each country faced the challenge of operating as a representative democracy without proper civic mechanisms in place. For example, while Hungary faced street protests, the Czech Republic had trouble forming a government. The rise of populist movements and populist rhetoric combined with societal distrust presented a demanding mix of both new and old issues.

In most countries, civil society, although with little constituency support, rose to the challenge by speaking up for their citizens, tackling the intricacies of the political process and addressing the needs of the marginalized, the weak and the excluded.

Two thousand and six was the first year of implementation of the CEE Trust's new strategy and approach to civil society support. The core of this new strategy espoused the efforts to build the capacity and sustainability of civil society organizations while stimulating the existence of authentic, active, pluralistic and independent civil societies as constellations of citizens, civic groups, movements and initiatives. When identifying and recommending projects for support, the CEE Trust staff and advisors strongly considered an issue's context and the necessary response to change.

The bridge to our initial approach, adopted during the CEE Trust's first few years, were the concluding multiyear projects in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia, implemented by a group of strong local organizations in each country.

The main new initiative was the open call for proposals. In 2006, the CEE Trust held two rounds of the competition – one in March (Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia) and one in September (all seven countries). The calls for proposals are a very important instrument for implementing our mission. They represent an open, democratic and responsive mechanism, designed to stimulate, identify and offer support to the widest variety of civil society stakeholders: non-profit organizations, coalitions, civic groups, movements and citizens' initiatives, media and academia.

The call for proposals was preceded by intensive communication within each country in an effort to identify critical cross-cutting areas of involvement. The consultative process predictably produced a list of very similar challenges in each country, enabling us to formulate a common set of needs:

- accountability of the public institutions
- citizen's participation;
- new social solidarity
- financial sustainability of the non-profit organizations.

These needs formed the substantive part of the calls for proposal. The competitions were advertised through various channels and reached a great number of potential applicants. The application procedures consisted of two parts: submission of short letters of interest (one page) and, after shortlisting, submission of full proposals with accompanying documents. The CEE Trust formed Advisor Committees (AC) in each country and the AC members evaluated both the letters of intent and the full proposals.

The calls for proposals were answered by 1009 applications of which 242 made the short list and 99 were approved and grant agreements signed.

The quantitative data provides a fairly accurate picture of the strengths and weaknesses of the call and the third sector in the seven countries. As a rule, more than half of the applicants were well established organizations with diverse experience and good internal capacity. This group is gradually becoming professionalized and their performance measures up to the new responsibilities of the intensifying public-private partnership. We have seen a smaller group of newly established organizations as well as a few informal groups and coalitions becoming active.

Regarding the goals and objectives of the submitted proposals there were few surprises. In several applications the proposed approaches and activities lacked fresh ideas and innovative solutions; significant number of the applicants proposed a different version of technical assistance and the proposed forms of involving citizens and expanding constituencies were not impressive. Nevertheless, the advisory committees critically read the proposals, made valuable recommendations and the CEE Trust selected an impressive set of good projects. The CEE Trust staff also managed a legacy grant of USAID and C.S.Mott Foundation, providing matching support for Community Foundations in Bulgaria.

In accordance with its strategy to address civil society challenges in an open, proactive and flexible manner, the CEE Trust staff is maintaining extensive communication with donors community partners, the third sector, and the media, securing a swift reaction if any threats or opportunities arise from the social dynamic. The staff has worked directly with a small number of organizations, civic groups and coalitions in each country to develop strategic projects outside of the call for proposal. This approach was extended to include key organizations such as human rights protection groups, think tanks, advocacy groups and major infrastructure and support organizations with the aim of helping them to build their long term strategy and sustainability.

As one of very few remaining organizations with the potential to address issues on a regional scale, the CEE Trust has consistently pursued its Cross-Border Initiative. This mechanism makes it possible for regional networks and organizations with an international agenda to address issues on a European and global level. The CEE Trust also supports small scale groups in organizing events aimed at learning, sharing, and empowering each other.

Grantmaking is the primary activity of the CEE Trust. At the same time, its unique regional position renders imperious the necessity to act as convener and facilitator for the national and regional organizations, networks and platforms. It supports a few international initiatives, such as the Civil Society Internship program (together with the Bosch and C.S. Mott Foundations). The staff is very active in all existing networks of foundations and grantmakers; the program directors participate in conferences, conventions and discussion and often provide assistance on networking and establishing contacts. In addition, the CEE Trust organizes regional partner meetings to improve communication and cooperation.

The challenges to democracy, political turmoil and the institutional instability in the CEE Trust countries, indicates that post-communist democracies are still vulnerable. Civil societies, both citizens and organizations, have an enormous role to play in the strengthening of democracy, through vigilantism and support for reform. In 2006 the CEE Trust tested the efficiency of its approach and we are now even more confident that its mission to strengthen civil society as the backbone of both representative and participatory democracy is on the right track.

Rayna Gavrilova  
Executive Director

## Summary

In 2006, the CEE Trust launched two **Calls for Proposals**—Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania in March and all seven CEE Trust countries in September - thus reaching out directly to hundreds of NGOs from around the region. The calls invited targeted proposals in four key areas, supported by the CEE Trust: public institutions' accountability, public involvement, social solidarity, and supportive environment for civil society. The CEE Trust received 1022 applications (letters of intent), short-listed 242 projects for full proposals and approved 99 projects for funding, for a total amount of USD 6,459,023.

By country:

**Bulgaria:** 301 letters of intent, 54 short-listed for full proposals, and 28 approved for funding projects in total amount of USD 1,415,378.

**Czech Republic:** 60 letters of intent, 25 short-listed for full proposals, and 7 approved for funding projects in total amount of USD 410,000.

**Hungary:** 93 letters of intent, 29 short-listed for full proposals, and 10 approved for funding projects in total amount of USD 418 000.

**Poland:** 106 letters of intent, 19 short-listed for full proposals, and 6 approved projects in total amount of USD 855,150.

**Romania:** 352 letters of intent, 83 short-listed for full proposals, and 31 approved for funding projects in total amount of USD 2,008,825.

**Slovakia:** 79 letters of intent, 24 short-listed for full proposals, and 15 approved projects in total amount of USD 1,251,740.

**Slovenia:** 31 letters of intent, 8 short-listed for full proposals and 2 approved projects in total amount of USD 99,930.

The large-scale open competitions presented a change in the CEE Trust's approach. In the years 2001-2005, the CEE Trust worked with key, national-level partners, which received multi-year grants to do strategic grantmaking in civil society development, to cover their own operational costs and to ensure higher organizational performance. Most partners from the CEE Trust's first phase successfully completed their programs in 2006.

In cases when applicants did not effectively address important issues identified by the CEE Trust board members, staff and advisory committees, the CEE Trust proactively approached non-profit organizations working within the respective spheres, and invited them to present a grant proposal. Three such proposals were funded in 2006 (one in Bulgaria and two in Poland), in total amount of USD 330,000.

The **Cross Border Initiative** continued, and in 2006, the CEE Trust received and approved 10 applications in total amount of USD 83,562, enabling civil society organizations to establish partnerships in other CEE countries and supporting joint projects among them. Two travel grants were provided in the overall amount of USD 4,114.

In October 2006, the CEE Trust launched the **Community Foundation Development Fund** aiming to support the development of community foundations in Bulgaria and enlarge the scope of their local grantmaking. Monetarily supported by USAID-Bulgaria and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, this fund was initially scheduled to operate for 3 years. Six matching grants in total amount of USD 103,884 were approved by the end of 2006.

The 2006 calls for proposals response received a positive evaluation by Country Directors in most CEE countries.

## Projects from the first phase (2001-2005)

In 2006, CEE Trust's first phase projects continued successfully in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia - a total of 10 projects were in progress. Some were completed in the fall of 2006; others will run till the fall of 2007.

### **Bulgaria**

The CEE Trust had identified three programming objectives for Bulgaria during a 2004 consultative process, and to address these goals, awarded four, two-year grants in November 2004, totaling 1.030.000 USD.

The Partner Organizations started implementing their CEE Trust funded programs in January 2005 and continued through 2006.

### ***Bulgarian Charities Aid Foundation in cooperation with Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law***

*Project: "An Optimistic Look at NGOs and Domestic Resources"*

*Duration: January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2006*

*Grant: \$ 280,000*

The major achievements of this project for the reported period were the 2006 Analysis of the Development of Philanthropy in Bulgaria. In terms of re-granting activities, 12 organizations were selected for training, consultation and small grants while nine other projects were funded through BCAF corporate funding. There was one local giving initiative launched; the "Giving is Wonderful" campaign has its own website ([www.kampaniata.org](http://www.kampaniata.org))

Program successes included a three-year analysis of trends and development of philanthropy in Bulgaria and a user-friendly Website with easily accessible information on donations and philanthropy education. ([www.bgblago.com](http://www.bgblago.com)).

The implementing partner, BCNL, produced several analytical reports regarding the financial sustainability of NGOs. Based on these, BCNL drafted a white paper for legal and fiscal changes to the Bulgarian NGO framework. In 2006, as a result of the BCNL and BCAF advocacy campaign, a few NGO law amendments were achieved. For the first time, the advocacy efforts of NGOs led to the introduction of clear rules and guidelines for state funding distribution.

### ***Open Society Institute –Sofia***

*Project: "Strategy for Strengthening the Sustainability of the Nongovernmental Sector in Bulgaria"*

*Duration: January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2006*

*Grant: \$350,000*

The major objective of this project was to improve the consolidation of the Bulgarian NGO sector through the formation of NGO "families" which collaboratively address key thematic areas, such as human rights, regional/local development, social policy, environmental protection and media. The Open Society Institute – Sofia received a one year program extension until December 2007.

Major project achievements during the reported period were: the approval and funding of six advocacy campaigns; support and granting of 31 small projects on a number of thematic areas like the environment, regional development, human rights or social policies.

There were two, three-day advocacy trainings and technical support was provided. The establishment of a sixth "family" of arts and culture NGOs was one of the successes of the project.

### ***Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation (WCIF)***

*Project: "Efficiency and Effectiveness for Change"*

*Duration: January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2006*

*Grant: \$250,000*

The program was successfully completed in December 2006. The goal of WCIF program was to build and strengthen the capacity of the Bulgarian NGO sector to reach programmatic and financial sustainability.

The major achievements of the program included:

- More than 78 000 BGN raised locally by the program participants;
- 32 CSOs improved their mode of operation with specific, issue-based consultancy support through the established Capacity Building Fund;
- 46 CSOs and 92 people trained as well as 39 CSOs successfully working in the field of local resource mobilization;
- 16 CSOs trained in for-profit activities and 11 received Bank loans
- 56 organizations throughout the country improved their skills and knowledge about EU funding and project
- Manual for For-Profit Management and Marketing Skills was developed and published;
- An analysis on the role and representative function of NGOs in advocating public interest in the European Union was prepared;

In general the project resulted in Improved efficiency of the performance of program participants' organizations; enhanced level of professionalism of trainers' network members; improved preparedness of the NGOs to successfully absorb EU pre-accession and structural funds.

### ***Green Balkans Bulgaria***

*Project: "Development of Civil Society in Border Areas through Establishment of an NGO Network for Advocacy"*

*Duration: January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2006*

*Grant: \$150,000*

The project period for Green Balkans Sofia was extended by one year to December 2007. The major project objectives were:

- Developing national and local instruments to provide an opportunity for NGOs to participate in the decision-making process as well as the formation of local and national policy
- Establishing a broad regional coalition to provide advocacy, expert assistance, legal and media support to combat law-evading policies,
- Discouraging corruption and anti-democratic practices of local and regional authorities

The previously reported establishment of an NGO coalition for anti-corruption developed further, organizing and participating in several campaigns. One of the major successes of this initiative was the anti-cyanide campaign, which was positively resolved.

### **Czech Republic**

#### ***VIA Foundation***

*Grant: \$3,000,000*

*Implementing partners:* Open Society Fund Prague, The Civil Society Development Foundation, Czech Donors Forum, Partnership Foundation and the Jan Hus Educational Foundation.

VIA Foundation has been selected as the main partner organization in Czech Republic since April 2002 to carry out the 3 objectives of the CEE Trust and implement strategic programs aimed at community development, NGO development, and philanthropy development. At the same time, the CEE Trust grant enabled VIA to progress in terms of organizational development and fund development strategy as part of their efforts towards the realization of the long-term goal of creating a truly indigenous and sustainable source of funding for non-profit organizations and community projects throughout the Czech Republic.

VIA Foundation's major accomplishments in 2006 were:

*Community Development Programming*

- Continued established programs that combine active capacity building with grantmaking;
- Disbursed grants from their existing field of interest funds, continued working with corporate donors, and set up a new public collection campaign.

*Development of Non-profit Organizations*

- Created Academy of Social Entrepreneurship: a program to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Czech NGOs;
- Continued efforts to strengthen NGOs and to contribute to the creation of a positive environment for civil society and NGO activities.

*Philanthropy Development Programming*

- Organized the 9th VIA Bona Annual Award to promote corporate and individual philanthropy;
- Organized seminar entitled "Strategies of Corporate Giving";
- Worked with media for better coverage of corporate giving in their publications.

VIA continued monitoring CEE Trust grants primarily in the following thematic areas:

- Civic Code and Public Benefit status;
- Legislative environment conducive to public participation & NGO operations;
- "Easy-giving environment" for non-anonymous individual donors;
- Development of community foundations.

Thanks to the remaining CEE Trust funding, VIA was able to support Czech NGOs with grants totaling \$150,000.

**Hungary**

The CEE Trust first phase program in Hungary was managed by three strategic partners since May 2003: Soros Foundation Hungary, Civil Society Development Foundation Hungary, and the Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation.

***Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation (HEPF)***

*Project: "To contribute to a supportive legal, fiscal and political environment in which civil society can flourish"*

*Duration: October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2006*

*Grant: \$798,000*

In 2006, HEPF requested an extension of their CEE Trust program until the end of February 2007. This request was approved.

HEPF's most important achievement of 2006 was the development and the promotion of the Civil Vision comprehensive nonprofit legal reform concept, which became a widely recognized example of the legislative environment of Hungarian civil society. In addition, HEPF addressed several of their key areas in 2006:

- Cooperation between the state administration and civil society by developing a guide book and a set of good practices for (local) civil servants and decision-makers, and launching the Award for Real Civic Partnership – first given in March 2006;
- The research in court practices of NGO registration culminated in a successful conference convening about 80 judges, attorneys and other legal experts, organized together with the High Court;
- Continued monitoring of legislative ([www.jogalkotas.hu](http://www.jogalkotas.hu)) and planning processes as well as the implementation and promotion of the new Act on Volunteering;
- Identified several areas where more work needs to be done, and where there are real chances to achieve important changes in the legislation; for example, public participation practices, the outsourcing of state services or the simplification of NGOs' administrative burden.

### **Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF)**

*Project: "In support of Independence, Accountability and Participation"*

*Duration: October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2006*

*Grant: #700.000*

The Program encompassed seven interrelated objectives: *Dissemination, Leadership development, Expert development, Advocacy, Quality assurance, Sustainability models and Donor education*. It was extended by November 30, 2006.

CSDF achieved most of its goals by means of a holistic approach to NGO capacity building. All sub-programs generally achieved their objectives and brought serious and lasting results, from increased availability of quality expertise to improved donor policies.

The CEE Trust grant also contributed towards the financial sustainability of CSDF Hungary itself. The organization made investments that further developed its core know-how to be competitive at a European level and developed a more sustainable business model for its operations.

Summary of the main program achievements towards the set goals:

- Increased number of key NGOs in Hungary that believe in the values supporting civil society sustainability, such as accountability, independence and participation, and manage their operations accordingly;
- Development of model organizations which are successful in applying these values and principles contributing to the sustainability of the sector as a whole;
- Introduction of key concepts and know-how that supported the accountability and independence of civil society organizations - most prominently, philanthropic fundraising and quality assurance;
- Widely disseminated management know-how and making sure that organizations make informed choices in addressing their developmental needs;
- Ensuring that NGOs are more mission driven, user oriented and seek community support; also by developing leaders and development professionals who think in terms of serving their communities and not just their organizations.

### **Soros Foundation Hungary (SFH)**

*Project: "Enhancing the long-term financial sustainability of non-profit organizations in Hungary"*

*Duration: October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2007*

*Grant: \$2.4 million*

SFH continued the implementation of the Trust Program in 2006. The main achievements for the year were:

- Completed programs by 5 grantees of SFH;
- Completed monitoring of all SFH grantees by SFH staff, which contributed to the overall evaluation of the CEE Trust program in Hungary;
- Continuation of the Loan Program with the assistance of Business Basics Foundation (BB). The experiences showed that the financial environment was getting worse for the NGOs in 2006. It is an unfortunate fact that EU programs (HEFOP, EQUAL) caused serious problems for the grantees. The amount of loans and credits at the end of 2006 was 191 million HUF. The number of clients in the TRUST program was 32.

## **Poland**

### ***Stefan Batory Foundation***

*Project: Third Sector Program*

*Duration: January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2006*

*Grant: \$ 5 million*

The CEE Trust Polish program has been managed by *the Stefan Batory Foundation (the "SBF")* since its inception in 2003. In 2006, SBF continued its activity within the framework of the CEE Trust award aiming at the stabilization of the environment for Polish NGOs.

The program implemented by the SBF includes four modules:

- Building an NGO friendly social and legal environment implemented in alliance with the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), Klon/Jawor Association, and the WRZOS Association;
- Partnership for the Third Sector implemented in alliance with the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy (FRDL) and the SPLOT of NGO Resource Centres;
- Promoting new models of funding community initiatives implemented in alliance with the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland (ARF) and the Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation (PEPF);
- Institutional and financial stability in key organizations.

In 2006, both partner organizations selected by the SBF continued their work commenced in 2003 and aimed at the development and strengthening of two models of financing local initiatives: community foundations and partnership groups. Main forms of support included grants, trainings, consultations and other opportunities of sharing information and experience. Currently 20 community foundations and 17 partnership groups benefit from the program, but the actual number of beneficiaries – local communities in almost 40 areas - is much bigger and sums up to thousands.

SBF also continued to work for institutional strengthening under the CEE Trust institutional development grant for the years 2004-2006. The grant supported the enlargement of the endowment of SBF, which was increased from 14,3 million USD at the beginning of 2004 to 30 million USD by the end of 2006, and helped to diversify sources of funding, which will allow SBF to maintain an important role as a grantmaker.

## **Slovenia**

### ***Umanotera Slovenian Foundation For Sustainable Development (Umanotera)***

*Project: 1. Monitoring Civil Society Related Issues in Elections Programs 2. Overall Implementation of the CEE Trust Program*

*Duration: April 1, 2004 – April 30, 2007*

*Grant: \$ 244,200*

*Main Achievements in 2006:*

- Elections programs: the adoption of the methodology and changes to the Government Procedural Act that requires ministries to report on the consultation process and involvement of NGOs and interested public in drafting of legislation and policy documents was monitored. Awareness and capacity on public participation within the government institutions by setting and sharing standards of good practice was built.
- Overall implementation: regular activities (grant scheme management, web-site maintenance, meetings, etc). In addition, the first donor coordination of donors active in supporting the NGO community in Slovenia was launched and a survey was commissioned.

*Project: Strategic Program for Strengthening of Civil Society in Slovenia*

*Duration: September 1, 2004 – April 30, 2007*

*Grant: \$ 680,000*

This program focused on developing local financial sources and promotion of philanthropy, civil dialogue, promotion of NGO success stories, and capacity building of NGOs.

In 2006, Umanotera Foundation achieved the following:

- Carried out training for selected local initiatives, as a follow-up to a study visit to Slovakia; launched tender for Community Foundations (CFs) and 4 funded 4 proposals;
- Organized two meetings with key NGO representatives to assess the situation and identify the focus areas of joint activity and discussing options for NGO involvement in the drafting of the National Development Program – NDP;
- Seven grants awarded, focusing on the following areas: tax reform as opportunity for NGO sector; National Development Program: Structural Funds and employment opportunities for NGOs; sustainable development within NDP and Operational Program; development assistance and role of NGOs;
- Promoted NGO success stories: 39 applications received and 3 best practices awarded with cash awards;
- Capacity building of NGOs through publication of a handbook (500 copies) of Marilyn Wyatt translated in Slovenian.
- Mechanisms for supporting NGO participation put into practice: 2 projects run by the CNVOS (NGO Centre) supported resulting in enhanced NGO participation in established EU NGO networks and federations. Awarded grant to PIC (NGO Legal Information Centre) to implement the start-up phase of the project Quality System for Slovenian NGOs.

# Calls for Proposals

Grant giving is the basic operational method of the CEE Trust. Since the beginning of 2006, the CEE Trust opened two competitions (calls for proposals), to select targeted projects addressing the four priority areas, identified by the board and the staff (accountability of the public institutions, citizen's participation; new social solidarity; financial sustainability of the non-profit organizations). The first call in March 2006 was piloted only in Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania, while the second call in September 2006 was opened in all seven countries in which the Trust works.

## **Call for proposals: Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia, March 2006**

The first open call for direct grants was advertised widely through the channels of the third sector and generated a lot of short proposals - 332 letters of intent. The CEE Trust received 168 Letters of Intent in Bulgaria, 134 - in Romania and 43 in Slovakia.

The best ideas were invited to submit full proposals - a total of 69: 21 Full Proposals in Bulgaria, 33 in Romania and 15 in Slovakia. The full proposals were assessed again by the advisory committee, the program director and the ED. At the end of the process 32 projects were approved for support. The type of organizations, projects and areas of work were quite diverse.

The selected projects adequately reflected the preoccupations and state of the civil society in the three different countries.

## ***Grants List***

### **Bulgaria**

**Organization Name:** Center of Independent Living  
**Project:** Disability Policies Monitor  
**Grant:** USD 36,500  
**Duration:** 18 months

To improve the quality of participation of disabled people in society; to provide a sound basis for public debate on disability issues by using the results of ongoing human rights based Disability Policy Monitor; to enhance the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of public institutions.

**Website:** <http://www.cil-bg.org>

**Organization Name:** Association for European Integration and Human Rights  
**Project:** Civil control over the administration and over administering the jurisdiction  
**Grant:** USD 26,333  
**Duration:** 12 months

To rouse civil society to action and to establish democratic practices of public control over the legality of the acts of the executive. The project will also be aimed at developing practice under the new administrative procedures law - Code of Administrative Procedure (CAP), in force from 12 July 2006

**Website:** <http://www.eurorights-bg.org>

**Organization Name:** ACCESS - Sofia Foundation  
**Project:** Public Council on Implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy

**Grant:** USD 16,400

**Duration:** 12 months

To strengthen the cooperation between government controlled and civil society structures in a process of anti-corruption measures. To create better public and media environment for implementing the second National Anti-corruption strategy in Bulgaria (adopted in early 2006) through establishing a Public Council to monitor the strategy

**Website:** <http://www.access-sofia.org>

**Organization Name:** NGOs Center, Razgrad

**Project:** Transparent and Effective Court System in North-eastern Bulgaria, enjoying growing public credibility

**Grant:** USD 46,840

**Duration:** 12 months

Transparent and service-oriented judicial system in North-eastern Bulgaria. Representatives of the Judiciary are aware of the specific needs of the socially disadvantaged citizens and act accordingly during the court hearings in the five Regional and District Courts. The local community is informed about the obligation of the judiciary to provide fair trial to socially disadvantaged citizens, who act as a civic watchdog.

**Websites:** <http://ngo-rz.hit.bg>  
<http://court-rz.hit.bg>  
<http://ngo-police.hit.bg>

**Organization Name:** Tax & Spending Watch

**Project:** Tax & Spending Watch

**Grant:** USD 10,000

**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims at enhancing the accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of public institutions by focusing on the instrument of taxing and spending. To raise public awareness of the importance of transparency of tax policies of the government; to raise public awareness of the importance of transparency of public spending; to challenge particular taxing & spending programs by applying benefit & costs analysis or commenting the one provided by the government.

**Organization Name:** Infospace Foundation

**Project:** In the spotlight

**Grant:** USD 75,400

**Duration:** 12 months

Providing information, drawing public attention and provoking public debates on the hottest issues in Bulgarian public life: the rule of law, the disclosure of the files of the totalitarian secret police and the scandals involving public figures. Creating a specialized rubric to present "the kitchen" of the judicial system; to put into effect the initiative of 138 journalists to be voluntary checked for collaboration with communist State security service (DS); to create a comprehensive "Electronic media records" of the "hottest" topics, people, conflicts and events for stimulating the journalism to turn into serious evidence based public discussions.

**Organization Name:** Chitalishte Development Foundation

**Project:** Bulgarian Traditional Community Centers (Chitalishte) – Catalysts of Local Cross-sector Partnerships for Sustainable Development and Mediators of Civic Participation in Rural Areas

**Grant:** USD 58,900

**Duration:** 20 months

To enhance civic participation in Bulgarian rural areas. To build the capacity and effectiveness of rural Chitalishte to catalyze cross-sector partnerships for local development initiatives; to establish models of successful cross sector cooperation - Local Development Initiative Committees (LDIC); to promote the successful grassroots civic initiatives and cross sector partnerships in rural areas; to promote rural chitalishte as strategic partner for local development.

**Website:** <http://www.chitalishte.bg>

**Organization Name:** CERMES - Centre for European Refugees, Migration and Ethnic Studies at the New Bulgarian University

**Project:** Invisible Communities: Being a Woman Abroad

**Grant:** USD 27,500

**Duration:** 24 months

Enrichment of the cultural diversity by new immigration groups - Chinese, Lebanese, Afghan, Iraqi, Kurd, Ethiopian, etc. and emphasizes the gender dimension. The project addresses two target groups: women immigrants and Bulgarian youth.

**Website:** <http://www.matra.hit.bg>

**Organization Name:** Paideia Foundation

**Project:** Transparent school: initiative, participation, responsibility. Civic initiative for involvement of local communities in management and control of school education in the municipality.

**Grant:** USD 93,430

**Duration:** 24 months

To enhance the accountability and effectiveness of public school education system through effective involvement of local communities in the management and control of school education on the territory of municipalities. Identifying the areas in which local community is prepared to be proactive; setting a public mechanism for interaction between stakeholders in school education; raising the capacity of stakeholders in school education; making proposals for improving the legislative framework; ensuring wide public support for improving the legislative framework.

**Website:** <http://www.paideiafoundation.org>

**Organization Name:** Transparency International - Bulgaria

**Project:** Promoting Transparency through Advocacy: The Challenge of Counteracting Corruption

**Grant:** USD 25,000

**Duration:** 12 months

To contribute to limiting the risk of embezzlement of public resources and harming major public interests by transparency and civil society monitoring. To set up the necessary background for elaborating a consistent anti-corruption policy of the government and major political stakeholders; to increase the capacity of indigenous NGOs in anti-corruption advocacy in public procurement and health care; to outline the main forms of corruption; to draw active plans for civil society monitoring on the implementation of anti-corruption measures; to draw the public attention to the presented problem and consolidate a common public position on the issue.

**Website:** <http://www.transparency-bg.org>

**Organization Name:** Institute for Market Economics

**Project:** Increasing Efficiency of Regulations and Public Institutions Through Analyses and Information

**Grant:** USD 31,100

**Duration:** 12 months

Enhancing the efficiency of Bulgarian public institutions to increased transparency of the fiscal process. Improving public and administration understanding of the efficiency of the regulatory process. Promoting RIA as a necessary tool for carrying out better regulation.

**Website:** <http://www.ime.bg>

**Organization Name:** Expert Group for Transparent and Effective Cultural Policy  
**Project:** Civic support for transparent and effective policy making in a public sector under reform

**Grant:** USD 17,590

**Duration:** 12 months

Enhancing the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture (MoC). Access to the information on the work of Moc; stimulating active participation of experts from the cultural sector and academic community in the definition of policy objectives and priorities; raising the public awareness about the cultural policy reform.

**Website:** <http://culturalpolicy.dir.bg>

**Organization Name:** Institute for Regional and International Studies  
**Project:** Citizens' Audit - Enhancing Civic Participation in the Municipal Budgetary Process in Bulgaria

**Grant:** USD 17,990

**Duration:** 12 months

Enhancing the participation of civil society in Bulgaria in public policy formation through the "budget advocacy" approach. Strengthening the non-profit sector capacity to address critical societal and policy issues. Building budget literacy and capacity to influence decision-making among different groups of active citizens, local and business communities; establishing citizens' budget advocacy groups engaged in municipal budgeting process; creating formal spaces for civic involvement on municipal level; planning models to further replicate the project achievements.

**Organization Name:** Theatre Tsvete  
**Project:** Theatre Tsvete - National Youth Net of Theatrical-discussion clubs „Citizens of Europe“

**Grant:** USD 89,960

**Duration:** 18 months

To encourage young participation and contribution for developing a healthy civic society. To establish Youth Clubs in 7 towns in Bulgaria where young people could be prepared and supported in informal environment to articulate their own concerns, involving them in decision making and problem solving on a local level. To support local government in strengthening the cross-sectoral cooperation for generating public good.

**Website** <http://www.theatretsvete.org>

## **Romania**

**Organization Name:** Center for Rural Assistance  
**Project:** Optimizing the Dialog Between the NGOs and the Public Authorities from the Rural Areas from Western Region or Romania

**Grant:** USD 27,560

**Duration:** 1 year

To develop the capacity of NGOs to influence the decisions of local public administration. To raise awareness of Local Development Agents and to involve them in community

development process. To promote the participatory governance principle in order to improve the governance at local level with NGO members in Timis, Arad, Hunedoara and Caras Severin counties.

**Website:** <http://www.rural-center.org>

**Organization Name:** ACCEPT  
**Project Name:** Coalition for Educated Parliament  
**Grant:** USD 58,470  
**Duration:** 1 year

The overall objective of the project is to support advocacy work in relation with the Parliament and the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) for better legislation and practices in the benefit of the victims of discrimination. One of the main goals of the project is to strengthen the visibility of vulnerable and marginalized groups and NGOs that promote and defend the rights of groups exposed to discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, belief, sexual orientation, HIV positive status, gender, gender expression and identity.

**Website:** <http://www.accept-romania.ro/>  
<http://www.antidiscriminare.ro/>

**Organization Name:** Association of Community Relations  
**Project:** Public Support for Public Good  
**Grant:** USD 150,000  
**Duration:** 2 years

To create an effective national framework for common action, increased outreach and transparent mobilization of resources from public and businesses for selected civil society organizations addressing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups - working together to strengthen their position in relationship with society and develop their capacity to attract in-country resources for their mission.

**Website:** <http://www.arcromania.ro>

**Organization Name:** Roma Centre for Social Interventions and Studies - Romani  
CRISS  
**Project:** Steps towards tolerance  
**Grant:** USD 100,000  
**Duration:** 1 year

To change the Romanian public opinion towards Roma, to sensitize the population about discrimination, to combat stereotypes and bias against Roma in mass media by launching a communication campaign, organizing public debates and press conferences on national level.

**Website:** <http://www.romanicriss.org>

**Organization Name:** Open Society Foundation Romania  
**Project:** From local solution to public policies  
**Grant:** USD 115,880  
**Duration:** 1 year

To connect public decision and policy-makers to grass-root process of elaborating patterns for community development within different areas where compact groups of Roma ethnics live and where Roma NGOs are involved in improving their lives. The specific objectives of the project are, community facilitating to elaborate long-term strategic plans for the integration of "Roma priorities" (identified by national agenda), strengthening capacity of local Roma NGOs (including a grantmaking element), analysis of public policies, elaborating proposals with experts and advocating at central institutions.

**Website:** <http://www.osf.ro/>

**Organization Name:** SCOP Society for Children and Parents  
**Project:** Today's children are tomorrow's parents  
**Grant:** USD 40,000  
**Duration:** 9 months

To encourage community members to react to inappropriate stereotypes, attitudes and behaviors, regarding child violence in Romanian families. To involve and train schools in promoting children rights in Timis County and to let them act as an intermediary voice between children in need and social services.

**Website:** <http://www.scop.org.ro>

**Organization Name:** Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF)  
**Project:** Strengthening NGOs' financial sustainability  
**Grant:** USD 120,000  
**Duration:** 2 years

To create a more enabling environment for NGOs in order to strengthen their financial sustainability, as well as to advocate with a coalition for improved mechanisms for NGOs, conducting research on current state funding, organizing debates to improve funding policies on national level, drafting a policy report, providing trainings for NGOs on monitoring, financial management, and diversification of resources, and finally to develop NGOs' capacity to access structural funds.

**Website:** <http://www.fdsc.ro>

**Organization Name:** Environmental Partnership Foundation  
**Project:** Speak up and get involved  
**Grant:** USD 225,000  
**Duration:** 3 years

To enhance, strengthen, and support the advocacy and watchdog activities of Romanian environmental NGOs, in order to increase their contribution to policy shaping, law enforcement, and monitoring the implementation of European and national legislation. The organization will create a flexible grant making scheme for the 2007-2009 periods to strengthen the environmental advocacy network. The project also aims to improve the public funding mechanism, to initiate environmental policy analysis, to raise public awareness and take action against illegal and unsustainable initiatives.

**Website:** <http://www.epce.ro>

**Organization Name:** Partnership for Community Action and Transformation  
**Project:** Empowering through participation  
**Grant:** USD 87,000  
**Duration:** 18 months

To empower marginalized and disadvantaged groups through capacity building of community-based organizations and promote a participatory and inclusive approach to the development of sustainable civil society organizations across Romania.

### Slovakia

**Organization Name:** Transparency International Slovakia (TIS)  
**Project:** Transparency improvement of subsidies granting by the central government  
**Grant:** USD 33,900  
**Duration:** 16 months

The main objective of the project is to improve transparency of subsidies awarded by the central government to local governments. Within the framework of the project, TIS will be analyzing budgets of all ministries and subsidies awarded by the ministries and a discretionary power in decision-making processes concerning granting of subsidies.

**Website:** <http://www.transparency.sk>

**Organization Name:** Center for Philanthropy n.o.  
**Project:** Mobilizing domestic resources for civil society  
**Grant:** USD 45,000  
**Duration:** 1 year

The project will contribute to a better enabling environment for civil society in Slovakia by improving the quality of selected public funding mechanisms (i.e., 2%, structural funds, subsidies) so that they will be more relevant, useful and accessible for watchdog, advocacy and policy activities. It will also serve as a tool for facilitating the process leading to increased communication among the NGOs platforms in relation to public funds.

**Website:** <http://www.cpf.sk>

**Organization Name:** INEKO – Institute for Economic and Social Reforms  
**Project:** Slovak press watch  
**Grant:** USD 80,000  
**Duration:** 16 months

The project's main goal is to improve quality and the ethics of the Slovak media. It will serve as a filter of doubtful, mistaken, or misleading news so that it will not appear and will not be repeated in other media. By improving quality of media, the project will improve control of the public institutions and will contribute to enhancing their transparency and effectiveness. Through encouraging critical thinking and real public debate based on facts, it will also help citizens to make "good" decisions based on "good" information and thus to contribute to further development of democracy in Slovakia.

**Website:** <http://www.ineko.sk>

**Organization Name:** Ekopolis Foundation  
**Project:** Active citizens fund: Sustainable funding for watchdog and advocacy activities in Slovakia  
**Grant:** USD 75,000  
**Duration:** 13 months

The project goal is to create a sustainable, long-term and independent funding mechanism for grass-root advocacy and watchdog activities in Slovakia, and to provide crucial small grant support to broad variety of citizen groups and initiatives to respond to local needs in citizen and human rights defense, public advocacy and watchdog activities.

**Website:** <http://www.ekopolis.sk>

**Organization Name:** People in Need  
**Project:** Roma representatives strengthening  
**Grant:** USD 10,000  
**Duration:** 7 months

The overall objective of the project is to support civil society as a voice for marginalized and vulnerable population – shifting Roma communities from the role of passive target group of social development to the role of active participants of this process through the mobilization of Roma civic representatives.

**Website:** <http://www.clovekvtisni.sk>

**Organization Name:** VIA IURIS – Center for Public Advocacy  
**Project:** Public interest law partnership: Improving decision making and empowering civil society  
**Grant:** USD 75,000  
**Duration:** 1 year  
The project will contribute to increased level and standards of citizen’s rights protection, consistent decision-making of public authorities, proper use of their competencies in protection of public interest and transparent utilization of public funds. It also aims at empowerment of civil society with specific legal tools to impact decision-making processes. The project is to strengthen capacities of lawyers assisting citizen’s struggles against non-transparent decision-making and promoting use of high ethical standards in legal profession.  
**Website:** <http://www.viaiuris.sk>

**Organization Name:** Pontis Foundation  
**Project:** Strengthening support for bulging partnerships and developing cross-sectoral cooperation  
**Grant:** USD 58,000  
**Duration:** 7 months  
The goal of the project is to promote partnership and cross-sectoral cooperation in order to attract business support for investment in communities to meet various levels of societal needs, primarily in innovative and progressive areas, since these are only rarely or not at all supported by business because they are generally less popular causes; and to work intensively with NGOs to introduce them with tools that will enable them to absorb such support and sustain it in a form of long-term partnerships, with both the general public and the private sector.  
**Website:** <http://www.pontisfoundation.sk>

**Organization Name:** Open Society Foundation (OSF)  
**Project:** Supporting civic society organizations tool for strengthening voice of Roma  
**Grant:** USD 200,000  
**Duration:** 3 years  
The overall objective is to promote society that provides equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups. It aims at contribution in narrowing gaps related to Roma minority as one of the most vulnerable groups in Slovakia.  
**Website:** <http://www.osf.sk>

**Organization Name:** Fair-Play Alliance  
**Project:** Strengthening democracy through islands of integrity  
**Grant:** USD 25,600  
**Duration:** 1 year  
The major goal of the project is to work on changing political culture in a chosen community through informal tools and civic engagement; to educate new generation of journalists and activists; and to create “islands of integrity” that will have a strong potential to be multiplied and will be able influence the whole environment.  
**Website:** <http://www.fair-play.sk>

## **September 2006 Call for Proposals: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia**

For the September Call for Proposals, 677 organizations submitted applications (letters of intent) from the 7 countries. Of those, 173 were short-listed for full proposals, and 67 were approved for funding.

### **Bulgaria**

As a result of the call for proposals launched on September 12, 2006, 133 Letters of Intent were received. Thirty-three organizations were short listed and invited to prepare full proposals for this round. Fourteen organizations were selected for funding.

The overall approved amount was \$842,435 USD. NGOs response to the call was very good. There was a better representation by organizations from Sofia relative to the first call in March. A wide diversity of NGOs applied for this call and the final list of approved projects showed a good balance between large and small organizations.

A high percentage of applications submitted requested less than \$10,000 USD. This demonstrates the now obvious lack of indigenous financial mechanisms to support small grassroots citizenship activities. Because of the departure of EU pre-accession and other significant funds, the purely civic initiatives have been left with no funding opportunities. There is no state supported mechanism available currently.

### **Czech Republic**

The CEE Trust received 60 applications in response to the Call for Proposals launched on 09/12/06. Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the CEE Trust staff short-listed 25 applications. Ultimately, the CEE Trust awarded 7 grants. No grants exceeded 100,000 USD. The approved total budget for the seven grants is \$410,000 USD.

The majority of projects were focused on supporting the environment for civil society (26 out of 60). A significant number of applications referred to "social solidarity".

### **Hungary**

As a result of the call for proposals launched on 12 September 2006, 93 letters of intent were received. Twenty-nine letters of intent were short-listed and invited to submit a full proposal. Of those, 10 were approved for funding. The approved total budget for the 10 projects is \$418,000 USD.

The call's reception was very positive. The applicants found the submission method "applicant-friendly". They were satisfied with quick responses at all stages and they appreciated the "paper conserving" solutions. Looking at the statistics on the geographical coverage of NGOs in Hungary, Budapest was over-represented at all stages. In general, large, well developed NGOs made the shortlist.

All CEE Trust areas of interest were covered. The majority of the selected proposals built on previously successful initiatives. This demonstrates a certain strategic approach by the Hungarian NGOs. Although creating partnerships is not a project requirement, many

applicants elected to develop projects with the assistance of partners (mostly with other NGOs).

### **Poland**

The CEE Trust received 106 applications in response to the Call for Proposals launched on 09/12/06. Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee the CEE Trust staff short-listed 19 applications. After a second evaluation and thoughtful consideration by the Advisory Committee, the CEE Trust awarded six grants. The approved total budget for the six grants totaled USD \$855,150.

The response to the CEE Trust Call for proposals was very good. The submitted applications represented all the CEE Trust areas listed in the Call for Proposals. The majority of projects were focused on public involvement and supportive environment for civil society. Additionally, a significant number of projects included allocations for capacity building.

### **Romania**

As a result of the call for proposals launched on 12 September 2006, 218 letters of intent were received. Fifty letters of intent were short-listed and invited to submit full proposals. Out of the 50 short-listed applications, 22 projects were approved for funding. The approved total budget for the 22 projects is \$1,084,915 USD.

The response to the call was very good in Romania. The geographical coverage was very good at all stages (including funded projects). All types of NGOs, covering many activity fields applied. However, of those projects funded most are large well developed NGOs.

All CEE Trust areas of interest were covered. The majority of approved projects focus on public institutions accountability and public involvement. Only three projects focus on supportive environment for civil society but many projects include capacity building elements in addition to the activity related components. Many of the selected proposals built on previous successful initiatives.

### **Slovenia**

As a result of the call for proposals launched on 12 September 2006, 31 Letters of intent were received. Eight letters of intent were short-listed and the applicants were invited to submit full proposals. Out of the eight short-listed applications, two were approved for funding. The approved total budget for the two projects was \$99,930 USD.

The response to the call was good regarding the number of applications received but the geographical distribution of applicants in Slovenia should be more diverse. The geographical coverage was relatively good in the first stage but applications were short-listed only Ljubljana was represented.

## **Grant List**

### **Bulgaria**

**Organization Name:** Public Cultural Center Eldorod – Sevlievo  
**Project:** Citizens for the Accountability of Local Public Institutions  
**Grant:** USD 6,300

**Duration:** 8 months

This project aims at facilitating the local community to become involved in monitoring local government and influence social, economic and political policy. It will increase the level of communication between citizens, government and business through the establishment of local initiative groups with one representative from each local village to monitor and report on municipal policies.

**Website:** <http://club-eldorod.com/php/library.php>

**Organization Name:** Simply Friends

**Project:** Young Leaders of Topolovgrad

**Grant:** USD 10,700

**Duration:** 12 months

The objectives of this project are to involve young people in local government; inspire them to develop and apply critical thinking skills; establish a closer relationship between academic concepts and a practical application of democratic principles in the context of local government; promote the idea that office in local government is a worthy career goal and that students are the leaders of tomorrow. Within the project student elections will be conducted for youth Mayor and City Council president and members. Municipality will host a student "Walk in my shoes" days to demonstrating that high office in local government is a worthy career goal.

**Organization Name:** IKAR Association - Haskovo, Bulgaria

**Project:** Maria In a Box

**Grant:** USD 14,900

**Duration:** 8 months

The project aims at engaging women with social and physical problems into seeking solutions of their problems by using the power of theater. The performances are intended to provoke public debates regarding the problems of women with special needs, different cultural background, victims of domestic violence, and victims of sexual harassment at their workplace.

**Website:** <http://www.inthename.net/ikar>

**Organization Name:** International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations

**Project:** Minority Rights and Inter-ethnic Relations in Municipalities with Diverse Population

**Grant:** USD 33,500

**Duration:** 18 months

The project will monitor the actual protection of minorities' rights in two Bulgarian municipalities with ethnically and religiously diverse population and will study the inter-ethnic/inter-religious relations in both municipalities (by interviews with the municipal administration and citizens). The outcomes will help the municipal authorities to increase their capacity to address the needs of their constituencies; to improve the communication between citizens and administration.

**Website:** <http://www.imir-bg.org/>

**Organization Name:** NGO Links

**Project:** What Policy for the Roma in Bulgaria? - A National Deliberative Poll

**Grant:** USD 78,750

**Duration:** 8 months

The project proposes an innovative approach to use the deliberative poll method to assist the development of adequate public policies regarding the Roma communities. The event itself and its extensive media coverage will help raise public awareness that the Roma problem is a problem of Bulgarian society as a whole.

**Organization name:** Association of Parks in Bulgaria  
**Project:** Voices for Protected Areas  
**Grant:** USD 44,065  
**Duration:** 8 months

The main goal of the project is to educate and empower the public concerning their role as citizens in terms of preserving Bulgarian Natural heritage. The project has the objectives to encourage consolidation among the civil society actors and build partnership and cross-sectoral cooperation between civil society actors and protected areas management bodies; to raise public awareness, knowledge and understanding regarding the national ecological network Natura 2000.

**Website:** <http://www.bg-parks.net>

**Organization name:** Lumena Civic Association  
**Project:** Violence Prevention at Schools - Citizens Partnership and Control, Empowering Democracy in Communities  
**Grant:** USD 27,950  
**Duration:** 10 months

The main goal of the project is to support the participation of the communities in violence-prevention education at school and develop capacity of educators from selected pilot municipalities to deal with the issue.

**Website:** [www.lumena.respectbg.com](http://www.lumena.respectbg.com)

**Organization name:** Community Center for Youth Ternipe - Simitli  
**Project:** We Can  
**Grant:** USD 7,900  
**Duration:** 14 months

The main goal of the project is to promote the growth and leadership of Simitli's youth with a focus on Roma youth through creation of a monthly publication in a magazine format, published on voluntary base by a group of youth from different ethnic background.

**Organization name:** Department Philosophy and Sociology at the New Bulgarian University - Sofia  
**Project:** Civic Education for a Civil Society  
**Grant:** USD 40,820  
**Duration:** 36 months

The main goal of the project is to create and test a complete new conception of *Civic Education* in Bulgarian Schools *as a particular subject*; to develop and discuss the educational goals, the content of the subject, the educational standards, a test-textbook, and a program for the supplementary qualification of teachers. Discuss the concept in 3 conferences with participation of Bulgarian scholars, school teachers and officials from the Ministry of Education and Science and from the communal authorities; promote the project's results in Bulgarian print and electronic media.

**Organization name:** Bulgarian Helsinki Committee  
**Project:** Assistance for the Reform in Bulgaria's Penitentiary Institutions  
**Grant:** USD 43,050  
**Duration:** 18 months

The project goal is to give an impetus to the reform of the penitentiary institutions. A second goal is prevention of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment of detainees in penitentiary institutions. This goal will be achieved by means of investigation the problem and elaborating concrete strategies for prisons and investigation facilities. The organization will conduct systematic monitoring of prisons, prison hostels, investigation detention facilities, juvenile reformatory institutions, and will publish analyses of the general conditions of detention. Strategic litigation will be used as mechanism to promote the international standards.

**Website:** <http://www.bghelsinki.org>

**Organization name:** Special Olympics Bulgaria  
**Project:** Changing Attitudes - Changing the Schools  
**Grant:** USD 28,000  
**Duration:** 10 months

The aim of the program is to help reverse the stereotypical attitudes of youths without disabilities towards their peers with intellectual disabilities through joint participation in discussion and events. The program "SO Get into It!" will be introduced in partnering schools.

**Website:** <http://www.specialolympics.dir.bg>

**Organization name:** Southeast European League  
**Project:** Facing the Challenge of Nationalism  
**Grant:** USD 67,000  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project objective is to engage key educational actors and stakeholders into research, debates and activities, dealing with the surge in nationalist discourse and manifestations. The participants - academics, doctoral students and school teachers will propose models for curriculum transformation in the area of "patriotic education" while at the same time catalyzing public opinion pressure for educational change toward a different set of values - inclusive civic education with a European dimension.

**Website:** <http://www.seal-bg.org>

**Organization name:** Foundation Open Society Institute - Sofia  
**Project:** Empowerment of the Powerless  
**Grant:** USD 300,000  
**Duration:** 24 months

The general goal of the project is to contribute to the social and economic inclusion of marginalized groups (minorities, single parents, elderly people, people with disabilities, people living in remote and isolated villages etc.) by advocacy and mobilizations of social solidarity. OSI will provide a number of small grants to community based marginalized groups or NGOs and to NGO families' engaged in advocacy campaigns. A team of qualified experts will provide an on-going consultancy (coaching and technical assistance) for the grant scheme project implementation. A forum for exchange of know-how and lessons learnt will be conducted annually to enable grant schemes impact assessment of both community actions and policy level.

**Website:** [http:// www.osf.bg](http://www.osf.bg)

**Organization name:** Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation  
**Project:** Beyond Accession: Local Resources Revisited  
**Grant:** USD 139,500  
**Duration:** 24 months

The main goal of the project is to contribute to the development of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and their relations with relevant stakeholders towards: maximizing the

prospects of CSOs sustainability after Accession; preparing CSO counterparts from other sectors to benefit from and further develop the potential of the non-profit community. The main instruments will be capacity building, professional development and targeted small grants.

**Website:** <http://www.wcif-bg.org>

### Czech Republic

**Organization name:** Open Society  
**Project:** Support to the Social Economy and Social Enterprise through the Development of the Public Procurement Procedures

**Grant:** USD 100,000

**Duration:** 30 months

This project plans to develop a Guide to Public Procurement Procedures (Preparation of Terms of Reference, projects selections, projects implementation, monitoring and evaluation), using experiences from the selected EU countries. The Guide will be mainstreamed within public policies at national and regional level.

**Website:** <http://www.osops.cz>

**Organization name:** League of Human Rights  
**Project:** Human rights and health service: strengthening position of individuals

**Grant:** USD 50,000

**Duration:** 18 months

This project responds to the development of patients rights.

**Website:** <http://www.llp.cz>

**Organization name:** New Space civic association

**Project:** Streetpaper New Space

**Grant:** USD 50,000

**Duration:** 12 months

This project has two major goals. The first goal is to publish the independent printed medium in the Czech Republic, which will be concerned with investigative journalism, watchdog activities, and social problems in the Czech Republic, human rights, and minorities. The second aim is to help vendors (homeless people, Roma and other minorities, people who have served a prison sentence, the long-term unemployed, handicapped people) to be integrated back into society.

**Website:** <http://www.novyprostor.cz>

**Organization name:** La Strada Czech Republic

**Project:** In search of effective ways to respond to exploitation and human trafficking

**Grant:** USD 80,000

**Duration:** 24 months

The project aims to create conditions to ensure that responsible bodies will take effective action against exploitation and human trafficking. La Strada wants a win-win situation for all parties involved. The organization will try to raise awareness on the need to broaden discourse on human trafficking to include labour exploitation in other sectors than sex sector as well as to labour exploitation that is not necessarily an outcome of trafficking and to advocate for reliable and accessible information on the nature, mechanisms, trends and extent of exploitation and trafficking in all industries and for mechanisms for ongoing

collection and analysis of such data to be established to inform policies and ensure that the policies respond to real-life situations.

**Website:** <http://www.strada.cz>

**Organization name:** Iuridicum Remedium  
**Project:** Big Brother Award Human Rights and Technology, Legislative, Litigation and Promotion  
**Grant:** USD 29,940  
**Duration:** 12 months

This project focuses on the following objectives:

- Provide qualified comments and proposals on pending legislation; advocate for greater individual privacy protection.
- Help establish privacy-friendly case-law through strategic litigation.
- Bring together experts, engage and support them with information.
- Be a reliable source of information for media.
- Strengthen our role as a leading civil sector partner for relevant government bodies.

**Organization name:** Transparency International - Czech Republic  
**Project:** Municipal Property Watch  
**Grant:** USD 50,000  
**Duration:** 12 months

The major goal of this project is to help in decreasing the extent of corruption in management of municipal property in the Czech Republic.

**Website:** <http://www.transparency.cz>

**Organization name:** Ekologicky pravni servis  
**Project:** Improving accountability, public participation, access to justice and NGO support in the Czech Republic  
**Grant:** USD 50,000  
**Duration:** 24 month

This project aims to 'watchdog' the public service, corporations and lawmakers by using focused advocacy to establish real change. Ekologicky pravni servis will research, develop and use new strategies and methods to enforce governance and increase public participation, test their applicability and sustainability, and increase public awareness of the issues.

**Website:** <http://www.eps.cz>

### Hungary

**Organization name:** Environmental Management and Law Association  
**Project:** Open Legislation  
**Grant:** USD 35,000  
**Duration:** 10 months

The watchdog project aims to enhance public institutions' accountability and to increase public involvement and advocacy capacity of civil society.

**Website:** <http://www.emla.hu>

**Organization name:** Belvarosi Tanoda Foundation  
**Project:** Management and network building - for the sustainable development of NGOs working with disadvantaged people

**Grant:** USD 50,000

**Duration:** 18 months

The project aims to enhance the operational capacity in alternative education and secure the sustainable development of participating organizations through creating a network.

**Website:** <http://www.btabp.hu>

**Organization name:** Mental Disability Advocacy Center

**Project:** Enabling the disabled: from segregation to inclusion

**Grant:** USD 35,000

**Duration:** 8 months

The project aims to:

- create dialogue among stakeholders focusing on disability law and policy,
- empower people with disabilities within civil society and the greater political context,
- build coalitions between mainstream human rights NGOs and disabled persons organizations.

**Website:** <http://www.mdac.info>

**Organization name:** Chance for Children Foundation

**Project:** The integration of Roma children in public education

**Grant:** USD 40,000

**Duration:** 12 months

The main goal of the project is to make the segregation of Roma children in education a justifiable legal issue.

**Website:** <http://www.cfcf.hu>

**Organization name:** Civil Europe Association

**Project:** First findings - analyzing the impact of European integration on the Hungarian civil society

**Grant:** USD 50,000

**Duration:** 18 months

The project is organized around two key activities.

- Detailed research on the reception of Structural Funds in Hungary, with a special attention to the partnership principle.
- Establishment of the Civil Europe Forum, the major symbol of civil control in Hungary in the reception of Structural Funds.

**Organization name:** Salva Vita Foundation

**Project:** Building disability confidence among employers, NGOs and government

**Grant:** USD 28,000

**Duration:** 10 months

The project aims to conduct a Social Return on Investment analysis and to advocate for changing law in order to collect conclusive arguments and strong evidence about the effectiveness of NGO's and business working together for the inclusion of people with disabilities into the labour market.

**Website:** <http://www.salvavita.hu>

**Organization name:** Hungarian Helsinki Committee

**Project:** Promoting an independent police complaints body in Hungary

**Grant:** USD 50,000

**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to

- identify problems in legislation and practice that are the causes of the complaints system's ineffectiveness,
- raise awareness of the need to make the system of complaints more effective in Hungary,
- advocate for establishing an independent police complaints body,
- show examples of good practice from other EU member states and
- propose a model law to be considered for adoption by Hungarian law-makers.

**Website:** <http://www.helsinki.hu>

**Organization name:** Hungarian Civil Liberties Union  
**Project:** Project to support investigative Journalism in Hungary  
**Grant:** USD 40,000  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to increase the number of investigation-style articles and reports in the Hungarian media and encourage the spread of investigative reporting in Hungary.

**Website:** <http://www.tasz.hu>

**Organization name:** Roma Press Center Association  
**Project:** Raising public and Roma NGO awareness to the inequality and lack of opportunities faced by Roma children in education  
**Grant:** USD 30,000  
**Duration:** 12 months

The main objectives of the project

- making images of Roma, as portrayed by the mainstream media, more objective and gaining public support;
- raising local community support for education integration by sensitivity trainings for local media and politicians;
- supporting the local communities and the legal actions of legal aid offices and organizations through media work.

**Website:** [http://www.rroma.hu/gss\\_rroma/alpha](http://www.rroma.hu/gss_rroma/alpha)

**Organization name:** Nonprofit Information and Training Center Foundation  
**Project:** Promoting philanthropy through information, technology and links between sectors  
**Grant:** USD 60,000  
**Duration:** 24 months

The project has the following objectives:

- providing information on philanthropy: about different types, examples, legal/fiscal background;
- establishing a direct link between the needs of CSOs and potential donors through the Internet, media and other platforms;
- to provide tool for various philanthropy campaigns and a surface for direct donations on the Internet;
- to include philanthropy as a topic into the media.

**Website:** <http://www.niok.hu>

### **Poland**

**Organization name:** Stefan Batory Foundation  
**Project:** Civic Watch - citizens on guard of public interest  
**Grant:** USD 600,000  
**Duration:** 3 years

This project's goal is to promote mechanisms of civic oversight of public institutions and institutions of public trust as well as activities aimed at raising these institutions' standards and transparency.

**Website:** <http://www.batory.org.pl>

**Organization name:** Rule of Law Institute Foundation

**Project:** Developing the capacity and interest of Polish lawyers to work in public interest law

**Grant:** USD 50,000

**Duration:** 15 months

The major objectives of this project are as follows:

- Develop the capacity of individual young lawyers to work in the public interest in Eastern Poland.
- Educate law students and young lawyers in public interest law and work to develop a culture of public service in the legal profession.
- Establish a resource center for law students and young lawyers interested in working in the public interest.
- Increase the institutional capacity of the Rule of Law Foundation in it's work as the leading provider of legal representation to vulnerable communities in Eastern Poland and as a leading Polish Rule of Law oriented non-governmental organization.
- In real terms increase the access to justice in Eastern Poland and further develop the rule of law in Poland.

**Website:** <http://www.fipp.org.pl>

**Organization name:** Association 61

**Project:** The right to know

**Grant:** USD 30,000

**Duration:** 12 months

The goal of this project is to build the information website

<http://www.mamprawowiedziec.pl/> - a transparent system of publicly available information about people performing elective public functions in Poland (their activities and parliamentary decisions).

**Website:** <http://www.art61.pl>

**Organization name:** Poznan School of Banking

**Project:** Interacting with the public authorities - education for active citizenship

**Grant:** USD 60,000

**Duration:** 12 months

The major goal of this project is to create a platform for a peer-to-peer dialog between the society, the local authorities of the City of Poznan and the regional government of Wielkopolskie voivodship. Through public debates the project will create opportunities for citizens to participate in the most important decision-making processes at the local level. It is a pioneering project in Poland.

**Website:** <http://www.wsb.poznan.pl>

**Organization name:** Fundacja Nowoczesna Polska

**Project:** Free Textbooks

**Grant:** USD 60,000

**Duration:** 24 months

The major goal of this project is to create cheap, good quality textbooks which will help in solving problems of overpriced educational materials which are not accessible for everyone.

**Website:** <http://www.nowoczesnapolska.org.pl>

**Organization name:** ZNAK Christian Culture Foundation

**Project:** Library - my favorite place

**Grant:** USD 55,150

**Duration:** 18 months

The goal of this project is to develop an innovative education system designed for the librarians covering the following issues: diversity, interpersonal communication, strategy management, creating positive public attitudes towards social dialogue. The curriculum designed for the libraries will be developed on the basis of experiences gained by the project team during its study visit to the US, where for several years a variety of educational programs have been invented. This curriculum will create an innovative way of content-related support meant for the libraries, and it will also contribute greatly to the enhancement of the prestige of both - libraries and librarians within local milieu as well as within other occupational groups.

**Website:** <http://www.fundacja.znak.com.pl>

### **Romania**

**Organization name:** CENTRAS - The Assistance Center for NGOs

**Project:** CSO e-AGORA

**Grant:** USD 47,000

**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to:

- facilitate access for 1000 CSOs to a complex electronic communication instrument tailored to serve CSO interests by hosting their advocacy campaigns, questionnaires, and offer resources exchange services and discussion forums;
- improve abilities to use electronic communication for 300 CSOs.

**Website:** <http://http://www.centras.ro/>

**Organization name:** Romanian Academic Society

**Project:** Coalition for a Clean Parliament - Euro-elections 2007

**Grant:** USD 40,300

**Duration:** 8 months

The project aims to:

- increase the level of personal accountability among top politicians against their constituencies by informing the public on the possible negative aspects of a candidates' background;
- help entrenching in the public mind a set of clear minimal standards of political integrity;
- prevent the access to the European Parliament of Romanian of candidates who do not fit a set of minimal criteria of political integrity.

**Website:** <http://www.sar.org.ro>

**Organization name:** ATU - Association for Urban Transition

**Project:** Together for A Better City - ABC of urban policy

**Grant:** USD 24,955

**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to:

- acquire a better understanding and a shared vision of the local urban governance and of the fact that housing, public space, green areas, infrastructure, communication networks, industry and services are closely linked to socio-economic aspects of the city (Integrated Urban Development).

- improve the communication between urban stakeholders so that the decision making process become a transparent and accountable one (Community Empowerment).

**Website:** <http://www.atu.org.ro>

**Organization name:** Association for Community Development Nehoiu  
**Project:** Strengthening the involvement of rural communities in decision making process in Nehoiu area  
**Grant:** USD 28,000  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to:

- create opportunities for dialog and consultations between the representatives of the Municipality, local professionals and citizens, on priorities, specific problems and possible solutions;
- involve the local institutional resources, like the Citizens' Advise Bureau (CAB), Cultural House, the Rural Cultural Centers (RCC), the Resource Center for Community Development and Parent Education, schools, libraries in 13 villages in building an inter-sectoral capacity for education, counseling, communication and experience exchange;
- start building the interest and motivation of the rural communities' members for making their voice heard and becoming involved in the decision - making process.

**Organization name:** William Tyrrell Foundation - International Volunteer and Resource Centre Slatina  
**Project:** NGOs` Intervention in Schools  
**Grant:** USD 22,800  
**Duration:** 24 months

The project aims to:

- encourage young generation to respond positively to the local community needs;
- train and involve schools educators and teachers to promote early civic spirit and involvement;
- create Community Clubs in schools in Olt county.

**Organization name:** Citizen Advice Bureau Cluj Napoca  
**Project:** BACK TO THE GRASSROOTS. Empowering citizens for action  
**Grant:** USD 50,000  
**Duration:** 24 months

The project aims to:

- increase citizen's awareness of their rights and responsibilities;
- increase citizen's awareness of the legal tools they have available for influencing decision-makers and the behavior of local institutions;
- provide the necessary tools for influencing local decisions and the actions of local institutions.

**Website:** <http://www.bcccluj.ro>

**Organization name:** "Sporting Club" Association of People with Disabilities Galati  
**Project:** We invest in our future  
**Grant:** USD 12,000  
**Duration:** 8 months

The project aims to realize a partnership at the public-private level in Galati in view of a diversity policy, a non-discrimination and equality strategy for disabled people on the local labor market both at public administration and private level.

**Website:** <http://www.sporting-club.ro/>

**Organization name:** The Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania - the Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH)  
**Project:** Bridging gaps between social services NGOs and the protection and promotion of civil and political rights  
**Grant:** USD 89,980  
**Duration:** 24 months  
The project aims to:  
- develop instruments for raising awareness of social services NGOs on the needs of their beneficiaries from a civil rights perspective;  
- develop instruments for integrating civil rights into the work of social services NGOs;  
- increase the knowledge of 15 active social services NGOs on civil rights;  
- create a pool of civil rights experts/lawyers that the social services NGOs can easily access.  
**Website:** <http://www.apador.org>

**Organization name:** Asezamantul Cultural Academia Catavencu - Media Monitoring Agency Dept.  
**Project:** The Transparency of European Funds in Romania  
**Grant:** USD 54,990  
**Duration:** 12 months  
The project aims to:  
- Make the EU funding process more transparent;  
- Make the management institution responsible for the funding process more accountable;  
- Raise the level of citizens' involvement in the EU funding process.  
**Website:** <http://www.mma.ro>

**Organization name:** Pro Vobis Volunteer Center  
**Project:** Volunteerism Beyond the Concept - A Way of Life  
**Grant:** USD 50,000  
**Duration:** 16 months  
The project aims to:  
- promote volunteerism as a form of individual responsibility and contribution to the overall societal well-being;  
- promote a correct and adequate image of volunteerism among the public authorities;  
- help voluntary involving organizations diversify their offers for volunteer positions to ensure an as diverse as possible range of volunteer positions;  
- raise awareness of the value of volunteerism for the various stakeholders of the volunteerism movement in Romania.  
**Website:** <http://www.provobis.ro>

**Organization name:** Resource Center for Public Participation - CeRe  
**Project:** Effective Public Participation to Policy Making in Local Communities  
**Grant:** USD 75,000  
**Duration:** 13 months  
The project objectives are:  
- 25 NGOs have knowledge of assessing quality of public participation processes;  
- 25 NGOs successfully monitor and assess public consultation processes in their communities;  
- 20 NGOs and 20 local administrators increase knowledge of effective public participation;  
- 10 NGOs and 10 local administrations increase efficiency of public participation in their communities;  
- Success stories and lessons learned are promoted.  
**Website:** <http://www.ce-re.ro>

**Organization name:** Resource Center for Public Participation - CeRe  
**Project:** Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases - RONARD  
**Grant:** USD 60,000  
**Duration:** 18 months

The project aims to:

- develop a national network of key representatives from patient organizations, communities, and public institutions - the Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases;
- establish a common strategy for tackling the issues related to rare diseases;
- organize an Information Campaign on rare diseases, as part of the National Conference for Rare Diseases;
- create a national training program targeting all stakeholders involved in rare diseases.

**Website:** <http://www.apwromania.ro>

**Organization name:** Open Society Foundation  
**Project:** Integrated strategies for natural resource exploitation  
**Grant:** USD 45,000  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims at:

- creating a virtual information center for monitoring the exploitation of natural resources in Romania;
- developing local civil society representatives' capacity to actively participate in the development of regional strategies for the exploitation of natural resources;
- raising awareness among local and central authorities in resource rich areas about the necessity to design local sustainable development strategies for the exploitation of natural resources;
- advocating for transparency and accountability of central authorities.

**Website:** <http://www.osf.ro>

**Organization name:** Euroregional Center for Democracy  
**Project:** Good Governance in Public Universities  
**Grant:** USD 32,960  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to:

- identify and analyze the key issues, challenges and appropriate responses regarding the present situation concerning the existing accountability mechanism of the governing bodies in the 4 state funded, public universities from Timisoara;
- establish 4 Task Groups on University Accountability;
- develop a coalition on the 4 Public Universities level in order to enhance accountability of the governing bodies;
- develop, implement and monitor the accountability framework of the governing bodies in the 4 public Universities.

**Website:** <http://www.regionalnet.org>

**Organization name:** Association for Community Relations  
**Project:** Knowledge for resource mobilization - Trends of Philanthropic Behavior of Business sector and individuals in Romania  
**Grant:** USD 30,000  
**Duration:** 18 months

The projects aims to:

- develop a study that will describe the a) Size & scope, b) motivations, c) mechanisms of philanthropic behavior at the level of individuals and business sector level;
- widely disseminate the results of the proposed studies to Civil Society Organizations

through printed materials and information seminars and secondary to the business sector, media and policy makers;

- develop a series of materials based on the studies that include the main conclusions and data and use this materials as advocacy tools for improving the overall image of the NGO sector in relationship with potential donors (business and individuals) and for improving legislation, especially with regard to fiscal incentives for donations from the individuals.

**Website:** <http://www.arcromania.ro>

**Organization name:** Institute for Public Policy  
**Project:** True accountability in National & European Parliament(s): Civil Society Accesses the MPs' nominal votes on laws  
**Grant:** USD 70,000  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to:

- support the development of accountable MPs in the national and European Parliaments through systematic monitoring of the concrete activity in these bodies and through exposing this activity to the citizens of Romania;"  
- strengthen civil society capacity of monitoring and tracking MPs activity, by stimulating the creation of a civic platform in the region.

**Website:** <http://www.ipp.ro>

**Organization name:** Pro Democracy Association, Sibiu  
**Project:** Say NO to the Corruption  
**Grant:** USD 19,085  
**Duration:** 14 months

The project aims to:

- inform citizens about the negative effects of the corruption and what is the punishment for doing that;  
- make the citizens more conscious that the corruption affects their life;  
- inform citizens about the role and structures of General Direction Anticorruption and which the options are to solve their problems.

Informative campaigns will be conducted in 17 High Schools from cities Sibiu, Cisnădie, Medias, Avrig and Agnita.

**Organization name:** Asociatia Pro Democratia - APD  
**Project:** Democracy at the Countryside  
**Grant:** USD 109,985  
**Duration:** 18 months

The project aims to:

- develop and disseminate a research on civic participation instruments taking into account public budgetary system, with a focus on subsidiary;  
- develop "citizens' initiative groups" within 20 pilot communities;  
- assist each group in identifying and approaching at least one local issue that can be solved through citizens participation in partnership with local authorities;  
- create a spill over effect for disseminating the methodology and experience gained throughout the project.

**Website:** <http://www.apd.ro>

**Organization name:** Transparency International Romania  
**Project:** Improving Local Governance and Service Delivery  
**Grant:** USD 40,000  
**Duration:** 6 months

The project aims to:

- enable citizens to debate the delivery of public services;
- provide a tool to measure satisfaction with the performance of local service providers;
- make public service providers and local government more accessible and accountable to citizens' requests;
- increase awareness about weak aspects of service delivery and to offer remedial actions.

**Website:** <http://www.transparency.org.ro/>

**Organization name:** CONCEPT Foundation  
**Project:** DON'T ASK FOR BRIBE  
**Grant:** USD 38,500  
**Duration:** 9 months

The project aims to:

- inform and raise the awareness of young adults, especially those that (will) activate in fields frequently associated with small corruption;
- involve the professional associations from justice, public administration fields in promoting the legal stipulations and the deontological codes, and in promoting their self-regulation role, in order to increase their responsibility;
- strengthen TIR image as an organization with expertise in providing applicable models for reducing the small corruption phenomenon and to strengthen the role of the professional associations as promoters of an ethic and responsible attitude towards beneficiaries.

**Website:** <http://www.concept.ro>

**Organization name:** Romanian National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux  
**Project:** Citizens' right to know  
**Grant:** USD 69,650  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to:

- increase the support of the local and national public authorities to NGOs providing independent, free of charge advice and information services for citizens;
- determine at least 5 public authorities (at local and county level) in Romania to insert specific budgetary lines for activities addressing citizens' information needs.

**Website:** <http://www.robcc.ro>

**Organization name:** Alternative Sociale Association  
**Project:** Home Alone Children - A problem that concerns us all!  
**Grant:** USD 74,710  
**Duration:** 12 months

The project aims to:

- raise awareness and the information level of the general public on the issues (social, psychological and legal problems) of "home alone" children;
- encourage a proactive attitude from the general public on the issues (social, psychological and legal problems) of "home alone" children for the reporting of cases to the concerned institutions;
- create a methodology for the psychological, social and legal assistance of the home alone children;
- optimization of the legislation (de Lege Ferenda) in the area for the protection of "home alone" children.

**Website:** <http://www.alternativesociale.ro>

## Slovakia

**Organization name:** The Charta 77 Foundation  
**Project:** Protection of human rights for vulnerable citizens through pro bono legal defense and watchdog actions  
**Grant:** USD 100,000

**Duration:** 12 months

This project is based on the main program implemented by Charta 77 Foundation. It seeks the possibilities to enhance the access to justice as well as to educate professional lawyers and promote the ideas of human rights, which activities have a very important meaning in Slovakia due to the limited access to justice and growing problems with respect for human rights.

**Website:** <http://www.charta77.sk>

**Organization name:** The Center for Civil and Human Rights

**Project:** Bridging the divide

**Grant:** USD 36,000

**Duration:** 18 months

This project aims at mobilization of discriminated Romani communities to resist discrimination through the concrete legal actions. It also focuses on improving effectiveness of existing legislation via empowerment and litigation activities.

**Organization name:** Citizen and Democracy

**Project:** Advocating for equal treatment through NGOs empowerment, strategic litigation and policy-making

**Grant:** USD 96,000

**Duration:** 18 months

This project aims at reducing discrimination and marginalisation of disadvantaged groups (such as the elderly, ethnic minorities, women, sexual minorities, people with disabilities) through:

- Empowerment of and networking between NGOs active in the field to enable them to tackle the issue on a complex, professional and sustainable basis
- Developing institutional capacity of the applicant to litigate strategically in discrimination cases
- Pooling project-relevant knowledge and experience from participating NGOs and influencing relevant policies.

**Website:** [www.oad.sk](http://www.oad.sk)

**Organization name:** Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia - PDCS, o.z.

**Project:** Educational and advocacy activities for Roma activists

**Grant:** USD 72,380

**Duration:** 18 months

This project aims at building up advocacy skills of 24 Roma and Non-Roma activists from 8 localities. The goal of advocacy part of the project is to apply theoretical knowledge in practice during training courses, with later simulation of advocacy activities directly in places of Roma residence. Through the Project, PDCS contributes to solving specific problems on the site, using cooperative planning process and advocacy tools.

**Website:** [www.pdcs.sk](http://www.pdcs.sk)

**Organization name:** Konzervatívny inštitút Milana Rastislava Štefánika

**Project:** Eurofunds Watchdog - decrease of the risk of corruption through monitoring of projects finance from the EU funds

**Grant:** USD 132,250

**Duration:** 2 years

The major goal of this project is to decrease the risk of corruption through monitoring of the processes of awarding and implementing projects financed from the EU funds and through watchdog activities oriented on the institutions that are responsible for the management of the EU funds in Slovakia.

**Website:** <http://www.institute.sk>

**Organization Name:** Institute for Public Affairs (IVO)

**Project:** Launching e-Governance in Slovakia - empowering citizens to participate, influence and exercise democratic control

**Grant:** USD 75,000

**Grant Period:** 12 months

This project focuses on public and expert discourse by providing empirical data. Its major goals are as follows:

- to improve the citizens' awareness about online services for exercising their rights;
- to deepen capabilities of civil society actors to use information technologies for promotion of open society principles in public life and to generate pressure on the public administration to implement information and communication technologies with regards of citizens' rights.

**Website:** <http://www.ivo.sk>

**Organization Name:** 1<sup>st</sup> Slovak Nonprofit Service Center

**Project:** Favorable environment for NGOs as a base of active citizens

**Grant:** USD 70,000

**Grant Period:** 18 months

This project's major goals are:

- to improve nonprofit legislation that would enable civil society actors to fulfill their role and ensure the sustainability of NGOs;
- to enhance the cross-sectoral cooperation in development of legal and fiscal regulations related to public benefit activities.

**Website:** <http://www.mvoservis.sk/>

## Slovenia

**Organization Name:** Institute of Ecology (IE)

**Project:** Slovenian Civil Society e-Participation web service

**Grant:** USD 25,410

**Duration:** 24 months

The project aims to:

- further develop a trial version of a voluntary managed non-profit E-participation (E-participacija) web site <http://www.e-participacija.si/> into a permanent and professional web portal that will serve as a single access point for public on-line participation within civil dialog processes and governmental decision-making procedures;
- promote and increase civil society and citizen's awareness/experience towards e-democracy in Slovenia;
- build and implement NGO's e-democracy capacities, initiatives and applications in Slovenia.

**Website:** <http://www.micelij.net/>

**Organization Name:** Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development

**Project:** Fundraising Laboratory

**Grant:** USD 74,520

**Duration:** 10 months

The project aims to:

- provide training on Fundraising Strategies and Tools for the Environment Centre and consulting for Umanotera;
- turn Weekly E-News into a financially viable venture covering its costs by the end of 2007;
- establish a fundraising base for the EcoHouse, a living catalogue of environmental alternatives;
- create an alternative way of giving gifts and promoting long-term donations.

**Website:** <http://www.umanotera.org/>

## Cross-Border Initiative

The Cross-Border Initiative supports **outstanding regional organizations** and **strategic NGO initiatives** in CEE. Eligible initiatives shall come from:

- regional NGO resource and infrastructure organizations;
- regional advocacy, watchdog and public policy initiatives and networks;
- regional networking and information exchange initiatives and organizations (context in which CEE civil society functions);
- regional cross-border grant-makers;
- regional initiatives linking civil society actors with policy makers and public authorities (local, regional, national and EU levels).

### Grants

**Organization name:** Romanian Donors Forum  
**Project:** Cooperation between Romanian and Czech Donors Forum

**Grant:** \$6,462 USD  
**Duration:** February 2006 – August 2006

The goals of the project are to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, know-how, policies and procedures between the Czech and Romanian Donors Fora; to build the connections between Donors Fora in Central and Eastern Europe.

RDF made use of the know-how of the Czech Donors Forum in the areas of: cooperation with the business sector, strategic planning and EU enlargement.

**Organization name:** Civil Society Development Foundation (NROS), CR  
**Project:** Regional Workshop "Sharing Lessons and Comparing the State of Civil Society in Post Communist Europe"

**Grant:** \$4,470 USD  
**Duration:** April 1, 2006 – April 30, 2006

The grant supported the participation of researchers from the CEE Trust targeted countries in the CIVICUS Civil Society Index Regional Workshop titled "Sharing Lessons and Comparing the State of Civil Society in Post Communist Europe". This seminar took place in Česká Skalice, the Czech Republic, on 5-7 April 2006.

NROS participated in a needs assessment for civil society, within the framework of CIVICUS, with the aim of creating a knowledge base and momentum for civil society strengthening initiatives. The project contributed to exchanging information, findings and practical lessons on a comparative level, and enhancing mutual learning within the CEE Region. The workshop generated recommendations for a sustainable and vibrant civil society in CEE countries.

**Organization name:** Romanian Academic Society - SAR  
**Project:** Curbing Political Corruption - Anti-corruption as Revolution  
**Grant:** 10,000 USD,  
**Duration:** October 13-15, 2006,

The grant enabled the participation of representatives of civil society from Central and Eastern Europe (Romania and Bulgaria) to the conference organized by the Romanian Academic Society (SAR) titled "Curbing Political Corruption - Anti-corruption as Revolution ". This conference systematically addressed the lessons learned from the two major approaches in anticorruption in Eastern Europe: the civil society/democratization approach

and the legalistic/bureaucratic approach. It not only drew attention to the lessons learned, but also encouraged the propagation of successful practices in tackling political corruption.

**Organization name:** Faculty of Library and Information Science, Sofia University St. Kliment Okhridski  
**Project:** International Conference Sofia 2006: Globalization Digitization, Access and Preservation of Cultural Heritage  
**Grant:** 7,000 USD  
**Duration:** October, 2006

The project supported the fourth issue of the international conference *Globalization Digitization, Access and Preservation of Cultural Heritage* researching the effect of globalization and global changes on libraries in formation of infrastructure and civil society. The initiative was supported by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and by the Department of Library and Information Management of Emporia State University Kansas, USA. One of the main objectives of the conference was to redefine the role and suggest practical involvement of libraries universities and knowledge management experts in promoting civil society, cross-sector cooperation and the involvement of the academia and students in global issues. The project was implemented in partnership by the Institute of Information and Book Studies, University of Warsaw and the Institute of Library and Information Science Faculty of Communication Vilnius University.

**Organization name:** The Development School  
**Project:** Donor Development Program  
**Grant:** USD 20,000  
**Duration:** 1 year (starting in October 2006)

The CEE Trust grant enabled the Development School and Indigenous Donors (IDs) in CEE to start implementing the Donor Development Program (DDP). The main goal of the DDP is to deepen the impact of IDs on critical issues of social justice within their own countries. The core of the DDP is a learning program (a Postgraduate Certificate Developmental Donor Practice validated by London Metropolitan University) for 15 foundations or individuals. The total cost of the learning program is EUR 120,000. The CEE Trust contributed USD \$20,000. This program is a potential vehicle for change and influence in the philanthropic world across Europe.

**Organization name:** CULT BG Foundation  
**Project:** Culture for Structural Development: Inauguration meeting of the executive partners and policy-related participants  
**Grant:** USD 9,000  
**Duration:** September 1, 2006 till November 30, 2006

The grant supported the participation of members of the Curatorial and Steering committee of "A Soul for Europe" initiative, representatives of the executive partners (NGOs from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia) in an inauguration meeting in Ruse, Bulgaria. It contributed to the achievement of the project's objectives: recognizing the role of culture in tackling issues like democratisation, conflict prevention, economic and community development with the final aim to produce a White Book for culture to be presented to the European Commission, national and regional governments. Applying a bottom up approach, the project evaluated the impact of the executive partner's cultural activities related to the goals of the project.

**Organization name:** Institute of Public Affairs, Poland  
**Project:** Regional conference titled "The third sector – civil society-state policy"  
**Grant:** \$9,000

**Duration:** September 18th – October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

The grant supported the participation of representatives from CEE Trust supported organizations at the regional conference, "The third sector – civil society, state policy" that took place in Warsaw, Poland, on September 26-27, 2006. The conference enabled an exchange of experiences between representatives of recipients of CCE Trust grants.

The overall goal of the conference was to summarize the monitoring and analytical work carried out by the Institute of Public Affairs in Poland, during a three-year project entitled "Building a supportive environment for the non-government sector in Poland – KOMPAS", which was financed by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe and the Batory Foundation. Conference guests included representatives of organizations, which disbursed funds from the CEE Trust for projects designed to develop and strengthen the third sector. The IPA invited 16 guests from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

**Organization name:** Bulgarian Gay Organization Gemini

**Project:** ILGA-Europe Annual Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria

**Grant:** \$5,500 USD,

**Duration:** October - December, 2006

The Bulgarian gay organization "Gemini" was hosting and co-organizing the 28th Annual Conference of ILGA Europe (the International Lesbian and Gay Association for the European Region). The grant helped to cover the travel costs of participants from CEE countries. The project contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of European human rights organizations, fighting against sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression discrimination, to work for equality through their involvement in advocacy campaigns and networking, the exchange of best practices and the dissemination of information and capacity building programs.

**Organization name:** Bulgarian Donors' Forum

**Project:** Meeting of National Donors' Association in Helsinki

**Grant:** USD 4,930

**Duration:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The grant enabled the participation of donors' associations from CEE into the meeting of the Donors' and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE) in Helsinki between January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007.

**Organization name:** Bulgarian Minority Studies Society STUDII ROMANI

**Project:** Conference: Dynamics of National Identity and Transnational Identities in the Process of European Integration

**Grant:** USD 7,200

**Duration:** January – July 2007

The grant supports the international conference *Dynamics of National Identity and Transnational Identities in the Process of European Integration* as a medium for networking scholars from different countries who are researching the process of identity changes and nationalism in Eastern Europe. The grant made possible the creation of a website on the conference topic, a book of the conference proceedings and a multimedia program.

## Community Foundations Development Fund

At the end of September 2006, the CEE Trust started the **Bulgaria Community Foundations Development Fund** to support the growth of community foundations in Bulgaria. This Fund is sponsored by USAID-Bulgaria, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and CEE Trust's own resources, and plans to operate for at least three years. At this stage, it provides matching grants to money raised locally by the CFs for grantmaking purposes and operation costs. It does not support fundraising costs, implementation of projects by the foundations, or endowment building. The total amount to be disbursed as matching grants within the first three years of operation of the Fund is \$300,000. Eligible recipients of the grants are the members of the Association of Community Foundations in Bulgaria (ACFB). The CEE Trust works closely with ACFB to monitor CF performance against set standards of good practice.

The 10 community foundations that are currently eligible for matching funding were created with the financial support of USAID within the last five years. They make small grants to grassroots organizations that want to implement citizen-identified projects in the fields of education, health-care, beautification of the living environment, culture and art, mass sport, etc. In the towns where they work (Blagoevgrad, Chepelare, Gabrovo, Lom, Pazardzhik, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Tutrakan, Vratsa and Yambol), the community foundations demonstrated to local donors that giving is more effective, when it is structured with the help of an intermediary such as the community foundation.

The CEE Trust is interested in supporting the development of community philanthropy as a source of funding for grassroots organizations that usually do not have access to other sources. In addition to securing money for civic initiatives, community philanthropy builds community integrity and enhances civic participation. It is an indispensable ingredient of healthy communities and vibrant civil society.

### *Matching Grants*

**Organization Name:** Community Donation Fund Stara Zagora

**Project:** Better Future

**Grant:** USD 34 640,52

**Duration:** 6 months

The community foundation provided 14 small grants to local schools, kindergartens, and one day-care center for children with disabilities. All locally supported projects aimed at improving of the environment of the public schools/kindergartens and the day-care center for children with disabilities, including renovation of study rooms and sports halls, purchase of new equipment, etc.

**Website:** <http://www.fund-sz.org>

**Organization:** Community Donation Fund Gabrovo

**Project:** Building up the Future through Supporting the Realization of Youth Ideas.

**Grant:** USD 29 705,88

**Duration:** 10 months

The community foundation provided 8 small grants to local schools, kindergartens and youth organizations. Most projects aimed at improving of the environment of the public schools/kindergartens and supporting youth activities. One project was related to preparation of the students for taking part in the annual festival of humor in Gabrovo. Another project that received huge public support included renovation of the birth-giving

department at the regional hospital in Gabrovo and painting pictures at the walls from young volunteers.

**Website:** <http://www.fond-gabrovo.veda.bg>

**Organization:** Community Foundation "Bridges over Tundzha" – Yambol

**Project:** Better Schools for Our Children

**Grant:** USD 17 962

**Duration:** 3 months

The community foundation provided 7 small grants to local schools and kindergartens. Most projects aimed at improving of the environment of the public schools/kindergartens including renovation of study rooms and sports halls, purchase of new equipment, rehabilitation of school yards.

**Organization:** Community Charitable Fund Blagoevgrad

**Project:** Social Kitchen

**Grant:** USD 6,164

**Duration:** 4 months

The community foundation supported the establishment of a social kitchen for very poor people in Blagoevgrad. The kitchen provided warm food (once a day) to 40 people during the winter months (15 December-15 April). The beneficiaries were selected on the basis of income and family status, preference given to lonely people with very low social pensions, who did not receive municipal social assistance.

**Organization:** Community Fund Chepelare

**Project:** Christmas Magic

**Grant:** USD 4 422

**Duration:** 2 months

The community foundation provided a grant to the board of trustees of the 3 local kindergartens to purchase Christmas presents for poor children from the villages of the municipality (60 children), and Christmas decoration for the town center. The project helped to make Christmas brighter to everyone in Chepelare.

**Website:** <http://www.chepelare.net>

**Organization:** Community Fund Pazardzhik

**Project:** To Help Vulnerable Social Groups

**Grant:** USD 10 990

**Duration:** 8 months

The community foundation provided 4 small grants to local grassroots organizations working with socially marginalized groups: Roma, poor people and people with disabilities. The first grant supported the existing food bank of the local Red Cross. The second grant supported the renovation of the building provided by local government for establishment of a permanent food bank in Pazardzhik. The third grant helped to purchase new reading equipment for the club of blind people. The last one helped for improving the equipment of the community center in the Roma neighborhood.

**Website:** <http://www.ofond-pz.hit.bg>

## Out of the Call Grants

A hard-to-reach segment of civil society is the informal groups of citizens who aim to achieve some common goals. In order to provide some structural support to those groups, the CEE Trust invited the community foundation in Stara Zagora, which is the largest community foundation in Bulgaria, to develop a proposal for grantmaking for informal groups. The re-granting project "Small Grants for Big Changes" was funded with USD \$30,000 for a duration of one year. The success of this initiative will determine whether the CEE Trust will replicate it in other regions of the country.

In Poland, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights ("**HFHR**") was invited to submit a proposal which contributes to human rights protection through civic involvement. The project presented was awarded a two-year grant of \$150,000 for the project "*Strengthening the rule of law and human rights protection in Poland through involvement of business entities, civil society groups and individuals in strategic litigation activities*".

Another two-year grant of \$150,000 was awarded to the Center for International Relations ("**CIR**") for the project "*Monitoring of Polish Foreign Policy*".

## Audit Report (See Attachment)