

EURASIA FOUNDATION

2008 NETWORK YEARBOOK



Engaging Citizens | *Empowering Communities*





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MISSION

Eurasia Foundation believes societies function best when people take responsibility for their own civic and economic prosperity. Through cooperation based on mutual respect, our programs equip citizens to define and achieve outcomes of enduring benefit to their communities.

THE CHAIR & THE PRESIDENT

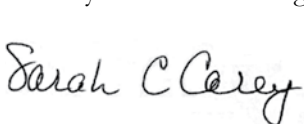
The global economic crisis serves as a reminder of how closely connected societies far separated by geography really are. The sight of commodity and stock markets reeling around the world, workers laid off from their jobs and companies filing for bankruptcy reinforces the sense that our livelihoods are linked, no matter where we happen to live. The crisis has focused the minds of political leaders, and highlighted the need for collective action to return stability to the world's economy. It has also confirmed the value of international cooperation at the grass roots level, where responses to the crisis by ordinary citizens make the difference between success or failure of households, communities and the institutions that support them.

The economic downturn this year has only enhanced the commitment of the members of the Eurasia Foundation Network to work together to resolve problems that are now more clearly perceived as shared. In projects ranging from Tajik-Afghan trade initiatives to small business development in Belarus and economic reform at the municipal level in Russia, we work with local leaders to address challenges on the ground—some that emerged only yesterday, others that have been years in the making.


Now in its second year, the Eurasia Foundation Network operates a new generation of programs ultimately aimed at accelerating the emergence of a civically engaged middle class in the Eurasia region. In this 2008 Yearbook you will find examples of projects that promote civic engagement, improve public administration, support the growth of small businesses and mobilize financial resources. You will also see stories of partnerships Eurasia Foundation established years ago with local institutions that have emerged as the leaders in their respective fields. Especially in a time of financial crisis, these joint initiatives benefit not only the citizens of Eurasia, but everyone involved.

None of this would have been possible without our generous donors. We value the sustaining support for our work by the U.S. government over the years, and deeply appreciate the significant and growing support of other governments, international foundations and corporations and the contributions of our trustees and friends. A list of our donors begins on page 24.

The Eurasia Foundation Network has the expertise and infrastructure to unleash the creativity of citizens throughout the region and to mobilize the finances necessary to advance their aspirations. With the continued support of its partners and friends, the Network will continue to link the citizens of Eurasia with Americans and others from around the world and contribute to the prosperity and stability of the Eurasia region for many years to come.



Sarah Carey
Chair



W. Horton Beebe-Center
President



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OVERVIEW

Eurasia Foundation (EF) was created in 1992 as a channel for engagement between Americans and the citizens of the nations that formerly comprised the Soviet Union. The foundation promotes prosperity and stability throughout the region by supporting exceptional social entrepreneurs and institutions of open, pluralistic societies.

EF has helped create some of the most influential organizations currently operating in the region and continues to launch new projects that will shape the growth of vital institutions in the future. In 2008, Eurasia Foundation completed the transformation of its field offices into autonomous local foundations and launched the **Eurasia Foundation Network**. The Network is comprised of New Eurasia Foundation in Russia, Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, Eurasia Partnership Foundation in the South Caucasus, East Europe Foundation in Ukraine and Eurasia Foundation in the United States.

The Network foundations operate a new generation of programs that include: Turkish-Armenian cultural exchanges to promote cross-border cooperation; corporate social responsibility campaigns to strengthen local philanthropy; building the leadership skills of young people to encourage activism; and linking governments and NGOs to forge effective public-private partnerships.

Working with local citizens and institutions that have the skills and vision necessary to bring the greatest social and economic benefits to their societies, Network partners continue to improve the lives of citizens at the grassroots level by helping small businesses to succeed, local governments to become more responsive and a budding middle class to emerge.

TESTIMONIAL

“Eurasia Foundation has firmly established itself as a valuable partner and honest broker for extending the reach of European engagement in the Eurasia region. The creation of the Eurasia Foundation Network indicates the foundation’s enduring commitment to transatlantic partnerships and serves as an effective channel for Europeans and Americans to engage the citizens of Eurasia.”

~ Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and 2008 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



EARLY INVESTMENTS YIELD RESULTS

THE BREAK UP OF THE SOVIET UNION opened the previously closed space between the government and the citizen, and a whole new generation of institutions came into being that would have been unthinkable only a few years before. Today, many of the strongest and most active civil society organizations in the region received initial financial and technical support from Eurasia Foundation during this crucial time. The following represent merely a few examples of exceptional organizations identified and supported by Eurasia Foundation that have resulted in tremendous impact for the region.



INCREASED CITIZEN OVERSIGHT OF KAZAKHSTAN'S BUDGETING PROCESS

In Kazakhstan, many citizens were unaware of their rights to participate in local government budgeting processes. Without rigorous oversight, it is much more likely that government funds may be misused or otherwise spent on priorities not representing constituents' interests. In 2001, EF awarded its first grant to the Center of Justice (Justice) and since then Justice has been working to engage Kazakh citizens in the budgeting processes of local governments.

With support from EF, Justice trained 123 government and nonprofit representatives, who later trained local community members on budgeting processes and applied budget analysis. Today, the head of Justice, Sholpan Aitenova, has become a well-known expert in Kazakhstan on budget analysis and policy. In 2007, Justice joined forces with the Soros Foundation to establish the National Budget Network to advocate for budget transparency at the national level.

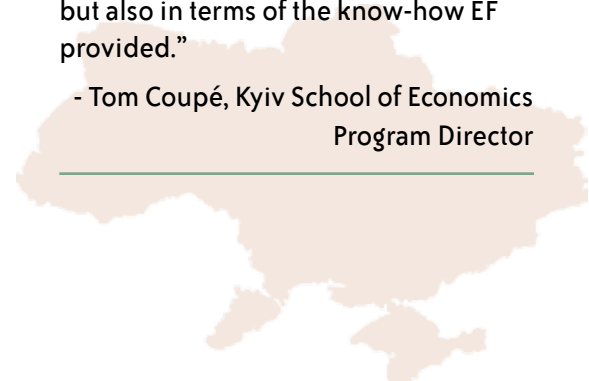
"Participation in the Kazakhstan Open Budget Initiative, both as a grantee and trainee, gave me great experience in the sphere of budgeting policy and applied budget analysis. From Eurasia Foundation our organization gained the experience of project development and reporting to a donor..."

- Sholpan Aitenova, Head of Justice



“Eurasia Foundation was there at the start and has been supporting us ever since. EF’s support has been essential at every stage, not only in monetary terms but also in terms of the know-how EF provided.”

- Tom Coupé, Kyiv School of Economics
Program Director



FOUNDED UKRAINE’S LEADING ECONOMICS MASTER’S PROGRAM

Ukraine had very few economists capable of practicing their specialty at the international level after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Recognizing the need, Eurasia Foundation created the Economics Education and Research Consortium in 1996 to train new generations of economists. Now known as the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), the school provides a Master’s level economics program to educate some of the most respected economists in Ukraine.

EF’s initial investment has resulted in more than 400 graduating students. Approximately 50 KSE alumni have gone on to receive their PhDs, many of whom currently teach in Ukraine, Europe and North America. As the leading Master’s program for economics education in Eastern Europe, KSE continues to expand its programs—including a recent partnership with the University of Houston, which now offers KSE students the opportunity to earn an American-accredited Master’s degree.

Today KSE receives broad support from foreign governments, nonprofits and corporations. It has also established a strategic partnership with the Victor Pinchuk Foundation for the long-term development of the school. As Ukraine and other nations around the world struggle with unprecedented economic turmoil, institutions such as KSE are more important and more relevant than ever before.

40% of KSE alumni pursue academic and public policy careers, 60% work in the private sector





ACCELERATED LOCAL PHILANTHROPY IN RUSSIA

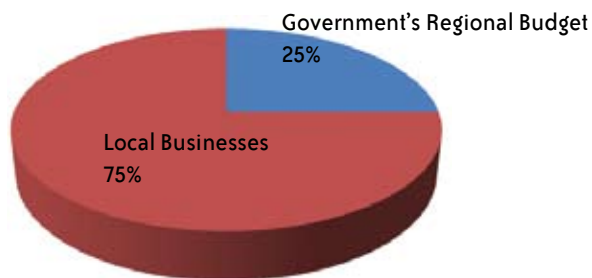
Eurasia Foundation improved the environment for local philanthropy in Russia's Northwest through its support for the Arkhangelsk Center of Social Technologies—the Garant Center. Registered in 1998, the Garant Center aimed to create favorable conditions for NGOs operating in the Arkhangelsk Oblast. With a grant from Eurasia Foundation in 2000, the Center was able to expand its work and became the first organization in the region to systematically promote local philanthropy.

Before Garant began its work, Russia's NGO sector relied heavily on annual grants from foreign sources and did not seek local sources of funding. With EF's assistance, the Garant Center was able to introduce an innovative model of local charitable giving by creating a Charitable Board to popularize philanthropy and to raise funds for social projects. The board currently includes representatives of 12 private businesses and over the past eight years has awarded more than 17 million rubles (approximately \$500,000) in local funds via grants to over 300 organizations in the Arkhangelsk region.

Shown in the photo above, Special School Number 39, which works with developmentally challenged children in the city of Arkhangelsk, is one of Garant's successes. A repeat grant recipient, the school has established its own fundraising department and become a model for similar schools. This is just one example of the many organizations Garant has helped in their quest to become sustainable institutions.

Program Funding

The Garant Center raises and pools local government and private funds, providing more financial impact and more effective program administration.





GIND Printing House effectively introduced competition to the newspaper printing market in Armenia, offering better services and more choices to newspapers throughout the country.



BROKE THE GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY ON NEWSPAPER PRINTING IN ARMENIA

When EF launched the Media Strengthening Program in Armenia to break the state-sponsored monopoly on newspaper printing back in 1997, the risks were great. Through a large loan, grant and technical assistance package, EF planned to take a virtually unknown independent printing company that had won an open competition to a level of operations that would rival the existing state-sponsored monopoly.

That once-unknown company, GIND Printing House, went on to become a profitable company responsible for printing 50 percent of the newspapers circulated in Armenia and for introducing competition to the newspaper printing market in the country. GIND succeeded in offering better service to newspapers in terms of quality, price and speed, and prevented the government and other special interests from exerting undue influence on print media. Today, 80 percent of Armenia's newspapers that are not supported by the government are printed by GIND.

GIND has transformed the printing industry in Armenia. Competition continues to increase quality and provides a market balance on prices that keeps them reasonable for local newspapers. Following this success, in 2004 Eurasia Foundation created the Print Media Distribution program to end the monopoly on newspaper distribution and enhance the connection between media outlets and their readers.

GIND has increased its revenue by 33 percent since working with Eurasia Foundation





THE STRENGTH OF THE NETWORK

IN 2008, EF COMPLETED THE TRANSFORMATION OF ITS FIELD OFFICES into a network of locally registered, autonomous foundations—**Eurasia Foundation Network**—in order to better serve the citizens of Eurasia. Network partners operate programs to address challenges that are locally relevant, yet also affect the entire region. In the following pages, you will read stories of how the five partner foundations are tackling issues by working with local organizations and the region's emerging leaders.





EURASIA FOUNDATION

For more than 15 years, Eurasia Foundation has empowered thousands of individuals and local institutions to guide the social and economic development of their countries. The foundation has helped build vital institutions throughout the Eurasia region and continues to support local NGOs today through its Network partners.

In the past year, EF has awarded over \$11 million to its partner foundations. In turn, the four partner foundations have supported 151 organizations and implemented programs ranging from youth activism to independent media. EF also implements special projects including a fellowship program and support for the emerging NGO sector in China's Qinghai province.

Eurasia Foundation seeks out the region's leading social entrepreneurs and provides opportunities for engagement between Americans, Europeans and the citizens of Eurasia. One example of this effort is the **Bill Maynes Fund for Future Leaders of Eurasia**, a program that provides fellowships to outstanding individuals in the countries where EF operates. Launched in 2008, the fellowship program goes beyond citizen-to-citizen exchanges and forges deep professional connections between experts and organizations—both in the U.S. and throughout the Eurasia region.

Ever pioneering, EF has taken its institutional development model to the Northwest region of China where the nascent NGO sector is just taking root. Partnering with the Sanchuan Development Association to establish the Qinghai NPO (nonprofit organization) Resource Center, EF is working to build the Center's capacity to train grassroots NGOs.

EF's program in China is the first of its kind in the region to provide capacity building services to grassroots NGOs. The impact has been significant. In less than two years, the Center has:

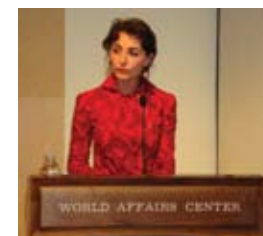
- Conducted trainings for more than 110 NGO and community leaders;
- Helped 11 NGOs successfully register with local authorities;
- Raised over \$100,000 for more than a dozen NGO projects; and,
- Become the go-to destination for grassroots groups, aspiring NGOs and potential donors for services, advice and project ideas.

\$11,000,000

Awarded to Network partners in 2008

151

Local NGOs supported



The Bill Maynes Fellowship provides participants with the opportunity to learn from and forge partnerships with numerous organizations. 2008 Fellow Ecaterine Siradze-Delaunay noted, "On an immediate scale, the most important thing that I took with me is the connections and networks."



NEW EURASIA FOUNDATION

Russia

The New Eurasia Foundation (FNE) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of Russian citizens through effective social and economic development programs that include facilitating the development of local territories, contributing to reforms in the country's housing sector, providing opportunities for youth and promoting independent media. Created in 2004, FNE has successfully navigated the challenges facing NGOs in Russia and has developed a niche as an honest broker between the state and civil society, furthering the foundation's ability to effect positive social change.

SUPPORTING HOUSING SECTOR REFORM

Over the past decade, the “rules of the game” for housing in Russia have changed dramatically. Russian citizens continually face the dilemma of tackling housing issues on their own or relying on the advice of government agencies. FNE supports the housing movement through promoting housing reform, increasing competition in the housing and utility services markets and developing housing education and policy. Program highlights include:

- Establishing the *Russian National Alliance of Homeowners Associations and Housing Construction Cooperatives*, which monitors housing reform in the regions, advocates for favorable legislation and engages citizens in housing policy dialogue;
- Helping apartment owners better manage their common property through collective decision-making strategies;
- Producing a series of publications on issues such as how to establish a homeowners association and finance building renovations;
- Organizing a conference for 300 representatives of homeowners associations, NGOs and regional and municipal governments representing 67 cities and 50 regions of Russia; and,
- Partnering with international organizations, such as the Foundation for Support of Local Democracy in Poland and the International Tenant Union in Sweden, to promote best practices as Russia reforms its housing sector.

327 representatives of homeowners associations, housing construction cooperatives, management organizations, state authorities and municipal government have participated in FNE's Homeowner's Support trainings. More than 50 percent have already applied their newly acquired knowledge and skills to improve the quality of their own housing.

DEVELOPING YOUTH LEADERS

FNE's *Active Youth for Local Communities* program improves the qualifications of specialists working on youth-related issues. Approximately 100 youth initiatives have been designed by the program participants and implemented in partnership with regional youth NGOs. These include training the leader of the youth *Bikers Club* to assist local road police officers in patrolling the city streets and providing members of the *Young Photographers Association* of the Kaliningrad region training to teach photography to developmentally challenged children in an orphanage.

100

Youth Projects implemented through FNE's
Active Youth for Local Communities Program

As a result of the program, voluntary associations working to prevent delinquency among minors have become more active and in many municipalities, young people have formed voluntary groups that dedicate their time to cleaning and beautifying their residential areas.

INVESTING IN RUSSIA'S TERRITORIES

In April 2008, FNE joined efforts with the Siberian Coal Energy Company (SUEK), Russia's largest coal mining company, to improve infrastructure, modernize towns and increase employment opportunities in five pilot territories in which SUEK operates.

Projects range from large-scale infrastructure development to grassroots initiatives. For example, in the Chegdomyn settlement, the project has resulted in the creation of a public-private partnership between SUEK and the government of the Khabarovsk region, which agreed to allocate one billion rubles (\$30 million) to supply the settlement with clean drinking water. In the Sagan-Nur settlement, the first local newspaper was published by journalism students and their instructors, much to the delight of the citizens and further strengthening their sense of community.



PROMOTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community education is a model where schools serve as centers of learning for people of all ages. Students participate in social awareness campaigns and volunteer in the community. FNE partners with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to implement its *Community Schools in Russia* program.

Projects have included students raising funds for a local children's hospital and integrating disabled children into the educational system.

Now in its second phase, the program has 17 participating NGOs from 17 regions, which have established resource centers to promote networking among the community schools. A testament to the program's success, the community schools movement continues to expand to new regions throughout the country.





EURASIA FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL ASIA



Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) believes that citizens can and should take responsibility for their civic and economic well-being. Created in 2005, EFCA implements programs from offices in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan that strengthen local institutions and engage citizens to build stronger communities.

ENGAGING YOUTH IN THE FERGHANA VALLEY

The Ferghana Valley is a densely populated region, divided by the borders of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The area is comprised of over 80 ethnic groups and faces high unemployment rates, poverty and religious tensions. Through its office in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, EFCA is working with youth in the Ferghana Valley to provide them with leadership skills and increase their involvement in solving social problems.

Partnering with the Uzbek Humanitarian Pedagogical Institute at Osh State University, EFCA trained 240 students and young teachers on leadership, tolerance, conflict management, effective communication, project management and fundraising. EFCA also established a Leadership Development Center and supported four small youth-led projects to provide program participants with real life opportunities to use their practical skills for solving social problems in their communities. These projects included performing plays in Uzbek communities in Kyrgyzstan on “Youth Against Drugs” and raising awareness of AIDS among students.

By providing leadership skills and instilling a sense of civic responsibility, EFCA is helping exceptional youth build a strong future not only for themselves, but also for communities throughout the region.

Zamira Khamidova, a third-year student, said, “I live in Uzbekistan and study here. Before taking part in the training sessions I thought that my future was predetermined...But now I am sure that I want to actively participate in the life of my community. And I will do my best to help people in our region improve their life!”

CREATING JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

To address the problem of unemployment among people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan, EFCA launched a program to provide the disabled with viable job skills, educate them about their rights and challenge existing stereotypes within society.

110,000

People with disabilities live in Kyrgyzstan

90,000

Of whom live in poverty due to unemployment



Rahat Kylychbekova, 29, was one of the many unemployed until she took part in EFCA's sewing training. Now employed, she stated, "I'm happy that now I have a chance to earn [a salary] myself. Before if I needed money I used to ask my mom or relatives for money, now I earn for my own needs."

PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES

Working to improve the environment for business and foreign investment, EFCA, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan and USAID, played a major role in creating an American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Tajikistan. Registered in November 2008, AmCham Tajikistan is dedicated to the development of private enterprise in the country.

This new organization will play a vital role in improving the investment climate in the country, attracting foreign investors, protecting business interests and actively participating in the lawmaking process. Twenty-three businesses have already joined AmCham Tajikistan. Their representatives are shown below at the first general assembly.



CREATING A MODEL FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EFCA helped create Kazakhstan's first community foundation—the Local Community Foundation (LCF) of Enbekshikazakh district, Almaty Oblast. EFCA trained LCF staff on policies and procedures for grantmaking and how to set up an accounting system.

In 2008, LCF awarded nine grants and raised more than \$87,000 from donors to support projects focusing on issues such as youth and disabled children. To date, LCF has worked with approximately 30 NGOs, financing their projects and promoting their long-term sustainability, and has created a model of community development that enables people to find solutions to the problems facing their communities.





EURASIA PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION

With locally registered offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) was launched in 2007 to serve the citizens of the South Caucasus. Programs include anti-corruption and media independence in Armenia, civic participation of youth and corporate social investment in Azerbaijan and government accountability and civic monitoring in Georgia. The foundation also promotes cross-border public dialogue among all three countries.

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS NATIONS

Relations between Armenia and Turkey are burdened by a long and troubled history. Recognizing that good relations between neighbors promotes stability, EPF established its *Armenia-Turkey Cross-Border Dialogue and Cooperation* program. The program strengthens the capacities of NGOs and businesses to develop and maintain cross-border partnerships and educates the public on the benefits of normalized relations.

Projects have included supporting Armenian media associations to establish partnerships with Turkish counterparts and cross-cultural concert exchanges. This past year, EPF organized six cultural exchanges between Armenia and Turkey, with events attended by more than 1,800 people. One of the most inspiring was the Istanbul-based Sayat Nova Choir and Kardes Türküler musical ensemble, which performed to large, appreciative crowds in the Armenian cities of Yerevan and Vanadzor. An unprecedented joint performance by Turks, Kurds and Armenians, the ground-breaking concerts marked a watershed for Armenian society and gathered extensive media attention in both countries.

These Armenian-Turkish cultural and professional exchanges point to a substantial turnaround of public attitudes in both countries. Approximately 900 people attended the Istanbul-based Sayat Nova Choir and Kardes Türküler musical ensemble performance in Yerevan and 400 in Vanadzor. Furthermore, the Armenian government actively participated by providing concert venues, demonstrating the readiness of both the public and the government to deepen cultural relations between the two countries.

RESEARCHING CORRUPTION IN ARMENIA

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), a partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, EPF and local universities, conducted a public opinion survey to examine Armenians' perception of corruption in the country. Personal interviews were conducted among 1,549 adults nationwide and included over 80 questions on corruption. The new Armenian Prime Minister has stated that he is determined to tackle corruption in the country and this type of reliable data will make it possible to measure the government's progress.



8 out of 10 Armenians consider corruption a serious problem

According to the CRRC survey, more than eight in 10 Armenians consider corruption to be a serious problem facing the nation. Yet a 51 percent majority believes there is nothing they can do to reduce corruption.

INSPIRING CITIZENS TO EFFECT CHANGE

Ani Khikhadze is a fresh herb producer in Tsqaltubo, Georgia. She and the other herb producers assert that there is a high demand for these products in Europe but transportation is either too slow or costly. EPF's *EU-Georgia Free Trade Agreement (FTA): Stakeholders' Dialogue* provides a forum for businesses and policymakers to discuss how the proposed agreement could affect domestic producers.

Through this program, Ani had the opportunity to attend a policy forum organized by EPF, learn more about the FTA and meet with high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. Through EPF programs such as these, Georgian citizens are able to engage government officials and participate in their country's policymaking, while improving their livelihoods and the community's economic development.



DEVELOPING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

In Azerbaijan, EPF's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) program focuses on developing the internal capacity of local businesses to make social investments. EPF supports an emerging network of corporate social investment managers to learn from each other's best practices and develop a cohesive approach to their investment strategies.

In 2008, 14 new businesses joined the EPF CSI Network. **"The more companies are aware of their commitments towards partners and society, the more they will be able to contribute to creating positive, long-term changes in Azerbaijani society while building a better reputation for themselves,"** said Sheyda Mehdiyeva, CSI Manager of StatoilHydro.





EAST EUROPE FOUNDATION

East Europe Foundation (EEF) empowers the citizens of Ukraine to build their own futures by mobilizing public and private resources for community, social and economic development. Launched in 2007, EEF builds the capacity of local organizations, creates sustainable partnerships and directs development resources into the hands of local communities.

Working in collaboration with EEF, Eurasia Foundation maintains a presence in Eastern Europe via its Representative Office in Moldova and the New Eurasia Establishment in Belarus. Together, this family of foundations supports innovative, community-driven projects that foster civic engagement throughout the region.

BUILDING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR PHILANTHROPY

EEF takes a comprehensive approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by training journalists to report on CSR in a fair and balanced manner, increasing public awareness through its weekly electronic *Ukraine CSR Bulletin* and promoting international CSR standards.

Yet one of the main barriers to philanthropy in Ukraine is its antiquated charity laws, which do not provide incentives for local corporations to donate. In order to address this challenge, EEF awarded a grant to the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) to advocate for improved legislation. UCIPR worked with local businesses and NGOs to develop a consolidated position on amending the legislation, submitted the draft to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and launched an advocacy campaign to lobby for the draft law.

Through this multifaceted approach, EEF is working to instill a sense of civic responsibility among local businesses and helping to ensure that legislation supports their philanthropic efforts.

EF Moldova also works with companies to develop their CSR strategies. When the Dniester River flooded in July 2008, Philip Morris Management Services B.V. approached EF to help provide aid to the victims. EF developed with Philip Morris a longer-term approach to its philanthropy that went beyond providing vaccines for children to include rehabilitating schools and other buildings affected by the flooding.

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ukraine's heating system is an inefficient and costly Soviet legacy. Today, excessive energy use is one of the most urgent issues facing Ukrainian local and national governments. EEF engages local communities and governments to form public-private partnerships in order to improve energy efficiency in public spaces.

30%

Savings in the Slavutych Annual School Budget

The town of Slavutych was founded in 1988 to accommodate families displaced by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. EEF and its partner Telenor installed a new heating system at a local school, which is expected to save up to 30% of the annual school budget.

200

Children's and Teachers' Lives Improved in Crimea

With funds from the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the OSCE in Ukraine, EEF provided a grant to the Creative Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies of Crimea to install solar panels in a kindergarten, demonstrating the effectiveness of the technology and increasing the productivity of 200 children and teachers.

HELPING THE DISABLED FIND EMPLOYMENT

"Employers don't trust the disabled. They think that they are not able to perform duties properly....Hundreds of young, smart disabled people, especially those from small villages, can't find a job." These are words spoken by 21 year-old Oksana Kononova, who is confined to a wheelchair.

To address this issue, EEF partnered with the Sokal Regional Association of People with Disabilities to create the *Consulting and Information Center for the Disabled*. Funded in part by Norwegian telecommunications company Telenor, the project established a wheelchair accessible information center to help people with disabilities find employment by researching vacancies and liaising with employers.



ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVED BUSINESS EDUCATION

In Belarus, students may take limited courses in business and receive an MBA diploma, however the Ministry of Education does not officially recognize MBA degrees nor are the programs of international caliber. In response, EF's partner in Belarus, New Eurasia Establishment (NEE), works to strengthen MBA curriculum content and helped the Belarusian business community learn how to organize to persuade the government for improved status of these programs.

Natalia Makaeva, Director of the MBA program at the Institute of Business and Management of Technologies, stated, **"This experience convinced us of the importance of building ties within the Belarus business education community and inspired us with confidence in our ability to succeed in addressing the most pressing issues of contemporary business education."**





ENGAGING CITIZENS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

ROOTED IN LOCAL SOIL YET LINKED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, Eurasia Foundation Network delivers programs that benefit local citizens while remaining responsive to broader imperatives. The partner foundations engage all levels of society—from young people, nonprofits and independent media outlets to business leaders and government officials—to address local needs and solve local problems. By working with promising local leaders and organizations, Network partners harness their energy to build effective local government, an improved environment for small business and a better informed public while creating local demand for continued progress in all these spheres.

ngaging media

To improve the viability of independent media throughout the region, Eurasia Foundation Network partners work to increase newspapers' credibility and financial stability and improve staff professional skills. In Russia, FNE supports independent media through training sessions and hosting *Best Regional Newspaper* contests. In Armenia, EPF strengthens regional media outlets and engages local media in the fight against corruption.

RUSSIA

FNE's Russian Independent Print Media Program helps newspapers improve their profitability, operations and, most importantly, journalistic practices. After participating in the program, more than 40 independent regional newspapers have improved their quality and enhanced their viability. Moreover, several newspapers have emerged as 'beacons of excellence' and set the standard of newspaper quality for the wider regional industry.

600

Media professionals trained in 2008

40

Independent regional newspapers have enhanced their quality and viability

ARMENIA

Since 2006, EPF has supported 28 regional print media outlets by improving professional skills of newspaper staff, enhancing the financial stability of the publications and linking them with newspaper distribution networks. Through a series of trainings, 89 participants were trained in management, journalism and editing, design and layout, photojournalism and marketing and sales. The participating newspapers showed significant improvements in their revenues, circulation and the number of communities they serve.

30%

Average increase in revenue from sales and advertising

30%

Increase in circulation

60

New communities served by expanded distribution

engaging youth

Throughout the region, Network partners develop the skills and vision for youth to become advocates for social change. From enhancing youth NGOs in Russia to providing young people grant money to implement community improvement projects in the South Caucasus, the partner foundations support opportunities for Eurasia's future leaders to contribute to their communities early in their lives.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

EPF's Azerbaijan Youth Fund is an innovative grant-making program that develops the professional skills of young people age 16–25 and provides them with small pools of grant money to distribute in support of projects in their communities. This past year, the Youth Fund was expanded to six new regions and now serves a total of 11 regions across the country reaching out to over 2,000 youth.

EPF has also introduced similar youth programs in Armenia and Georgia. In November 2008, several Georgian youth visited their counterparts in Azerbaijan to learn best practices in adapting the Youth Fund model.

ARMENIA

More than 250 youths in 30 communities have implemented 19 small grants, benefiting more than 1,000 additional young people.

AZERBAIJAN

As a result of its project management and fundraising training, the Ganja Youth Fund has received external funding to implement projects independently, including a grant for over \$7,500 from the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation and a \$2,000 grant from the Open Society Institute.

GEORGIA

The Marneuli Youth Bank launched a donation drive at five local schools and gathered over 2,000 school supplies, more than 400 articles of warm clothes and boxes of hygiene supplies, helping 116 children displaced by the conflict with Russia in August 2008.

Youth Fund Success

The Story of Akshin



A remarkable success of the Azerbaijan Youth Fund is the story of Akshin Askerov. A young man who grew up in Astara, a small town close to the border with Iran, he went to school but did not have much to do in a town that does not offer many opportunities for young people. It was not until Akshin became part of the Youth Fund program that he realized what great potential he had.

The program inspired him and he started learning English and attending trainings on leadership development. After three years with the program, this young man can speak excellent English, is applying to study in the U.S. and found a job as a translator in Baku. Akshin has also led numerous trainings for newly established Youth Funds on leadership and personal development.

He said, "The Azerbaijan Youth Fund served as a turning point in my life—this is when my life vision solidified. I was in constant search of better opportunities, and it brought tremendous impact to my professional development." This is a perfect example how youth are directly affected by the Youth Fund. Through professional development and new opportunities, young people such as Akshin are poised to become future leaders of their country.



engaging NGOs

In this Yearbook you have seen examples of exceptional organizations identified and supported by Eurasia Foundation in the early years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Experts in institutional development, Network partners continue to work with local NGOs to build their capacity and sustainability. Furthermore, the foundations serve as coalition builders, engaging NGOs to develop consolidated positions on issues affecting their citizens.

200

NGOs united to form the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections

32

Organizations are members of the Anti-Corruption Alliance

MOLDOVA

Eurasia Foundation has a strong track record of creating successful NGO coalitions in Moldova. EF was instrumental in creating the Civic Coalition for Free and Fair Elections to monitor and provide support during Moldova's 2005 parliamentary elections. Uniting nearly 200 nonprofit organizations, the Coalition demonstrated to the NGO sector the value of working together. The Coalition continues to play a major role in elections and has been active in the 2006 gubernatorial election in Gagauz-Yeri, the 2007 local general elections and the 2008 Gagauz-Yeri Popular Assembly elections.

EF Moldova also works to reduce systemic corruption in the country. The main vehicle for these activities is the Anti-Corruption Alliance (ACA), a coalition of NGOs dedicated to exposing and eradicating corruption. Formed by EF and eight other NGOs in 2006, the ACA has expanded and now includes 32 members. EF provides training, technical assistance and other programmatic support to ACA by hosting its secretariat.

KAZAKHSTAN

Today, most NGOs in Kazakhstan are located in the country's largest city, Almaty. When the capital city changed to Astana in 1997, only a few NGOs moved their main offices to the new capital. To address this, EFCA is working to create new and strengthen existing NGOs in Astana. EFCA held eight institutional training sessions for representatives of 40 organizations and provided legal consultations for activists wanting to open NGOs. As a result, eight new organizations were set up in the capital that will focus on youth, environmental and legal issues.

40

NGOs received institutional development training

8

New NGOs were set up in the capital

engaging labor migrants

Migrating from one's home to find work is a way of life for millions of citizens in the region. With the vast number of labor migrants each year, many work illegally and are susceptible to exploitation. From Armenia to Kyrgyzstan, Network partners are working to protect the rights of labor migrants throughout the region.

KYRGYZSTAN

With a population of five million and rising unemployment rates, it is estimated that 300,000 to 800,000 Kyrgyz leave their country each year to find work. Many are driven to work illegally and are at risk of having their rights abused by employers and authorities.

EFCA has established seven resource centers in Kyrgyzstan that provide labor migrants with legal consultation and employment information. The foundation has also built partnerships with migration centers in Russia to exchange information on job vacancies and developed short-term technical courses on the most sought-after skills in Russia for labor migrants. In June 2008, the first 12 graduates of these courses in Kyzyl-Kiya received their professional certificates and are now eligible to legally work in Russia.

"The introduction of these short-term educational courses is very relevant and necessary because a lot of people migrate to Russia from Batken Oblast. In Russia they have to work at low-paying jobs as unqualified workers. Now, our graduates will have a chance to find a job according to their qualifications and earn more money," said Mamaturan Isakov, the Director of vocational school #7.



Forty-eight year-old Gagik Sahakyan is an unemployed engineer in the Armenian city of Vanadzor. Gagik worked in Russia as a construction supervisor for three years, but had to move back to Vanadzor. Now he struggles to support his family. EPF partnered with the Western Union Foundation to provide professional development trainings at two local migration and return resource centers. After attending one of the trainings, Gagik said, "The seminar was extremely useful for me. There were so many things I didn't know, even though I used to work in Russia before. It is so important to know your rights and responsibilities!"

TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is one of the countries most reliant on remittances in the world. With the vast number of labor migrants, EFCA is working to protect their rights and provide them with improved skills for better employment opportunities.

Through partnering with a local NGO, *Multikid*, EFCA has helped more than 1,000 potential migrants obtain information on job opportunities, skills required and registration processes.

The program also organized a two-month Russian language course. Two-thirds of the participants passed the exams, increasing their chances of better employment and easier social adaption in Russia.

In 2007

800,000

People emigrated from Tajikistan to find work

\$1.8 billion

Was sent back to Tajikistan in remittances

46%

Of Tajikistan's GDP came from these remittances

EURASIA FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

Eurasia Foundation Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2008

ASSETS	2008
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,311,978
Investments	1,528,670
Grants, accounts and other receivables	14,201,683
Prepaid expenses	57,407
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	11,748
Advances and deposits	26,014
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 22,137,500
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 506,583
Grants payable	11,070,404
Refundable advance	30,649
Total liabilities	11,607,636
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	7,186,197
Temporarily restricted	3,337,867
Permanently restricted	5,800
Total net assets	10,529,864
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 22,137,500

Complete audited financial reports are available upon request. Network partners' financials should be requested from the appropriate organization.

Eurasia Foundation Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets for the Year Ended September 30, 2008

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Contributions	\$ 15,747	\$ 21,564,002	\$ -	\$ 21,579,749
Investment income	80,946	-	-	80,946
Other income	7,237	1,293	-	8,530
Cancellation of prior year awards	-	(458,354)	-	(458,354)
Net assets released from restrictions- satisfaction of donor restrictions	20,552,675	(20,552,675)	-	-
Total revenue and support	20,656,605	554,266	-	21,210,871
EXPENSES				
Program services:				
Caucasus	7,414,351	-	-	7,414,351
Central Asia	2,759,638	-	-	2,759,638
Western NIS	3,754,662	-	-	3,754,662
Russia	2,912,829	-	-	2,912,829
Other	805,290	-	-	805,290
Total program services	17,646,770	-	-	17,646,770
Supporting services:				
Management and general	3,028,169	-	-	3,028,169
Total expenses	20,674,939	-	-	20,674,939
Change in net assets	(18,334)	554,266	-	535,932
Net assets at beginning of year	7,204,531	2,783,601	5,800	9,993,932
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 7,186,197	\$ 3,337,867	\$ 5,800	\$ 10,529,864



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~ Madeleine Albright, The Albright Group
& former United States Secretary of State



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