

Date Printed: 11/03/2008

JTS Box Number: IFES_11

Tab Number: 3

Document Title: Romania Civic Education Project,
1994-1997

Document Date: 1997

Document Country: Romania

IFES ID: R01849



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ROMANIA

CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT

1994 - 1997

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*This Report was made possible by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
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I. PROJECT SUMMARY

A. CIVIC EDUCATION

In August 1992, IFES established an office in Bucharest, Romania, in order to implement its Civic Education Program, made possible through funding from USAID. The program, designed to help foster Romania's democratization and develop its domestic institutions, sought to achieve these results mainly by strengthening the emerging NGO sector through the development of its abilities. The focus of the program was directed towards six categories of NGOs: civic, human rights, economic, media, youth and environmental. The program was to be implemented in three phases. During the first phase, IFES tried to stimulate the creation of NGOs by holding a series of conferences/public meetings for civic leaders throughout the country. This was one of the main goals of the *Vocea Civica* Project. The second goal was to assist existing NGOs to facilitate their networking and expand their audience to include government officials and the media. The next phase of the program was dedicated to improving internal communications within the NGO sector and the external relations with the media and government while continuing the main activities of the first phase. Finally, a phase-out included the establishment of CENTRAS, a Romanian independent organization which had evolved from the IFES Civic Education Program, expanding its focus to become a service provider and promoter of NGO legislation. The core of CENTRAS' staff has benefitted from the experience gained during the IFES program, and was able to propel the organization into one of the most successful and well known NGOs in Romania today.

1. Phase One: Needs Assessment and Initial Contacts

The first phase began with a series of seminars and regional conferences for civic leaders and NGOs throughout the country, organized with the cooperation of NGOs that had volunteer networks in-country such as the ProDemocracy Association (PDA) and the League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADO). These events had two objectives: to foster the development of the NGO sector by stimulating responsible people to associate for a common good and to collect information on active NGOs and their needs and expectations. This occurred in a context where the reluctance to do so was understandable due to the experience of the communist regime. With the exception of the first conference that took place in Bucharest in August 1992, almost all the rest of the events were organized outside the capital.

The project's structure was very flexible in order to cope with the ever-changing Romanian environment. Through a large number of informal meetings, conducted by the staff (both local and

from the Washington office), with NGO leaders, government representatives, MPs and journalists, IFES was able to identify trends and needs and adjust its program for the greatest impact. As a result of the feedback process employed by IFES during the first phase, the second phase responded specifically to the critical needs of the sector which had been identified.

2. Phase Two: Outreach and Networking

It is during the second phase that several important needs of the non-profit sector were met through the use of different methods and activities:

► ***The Romanian NGO Forum***

The NGO Forum, the most significant event for the NGO community since 1994, provided NGOs with a forum for dialogue with the government and parliament and created networks of information and coordination within the sector. Another important aspect was the dramatic improvement of the sector's public image. While previously neglected, NGOs began to receive coverage in the media (both written and electronic), gaining more recognition every year. Because of its success and popularity, it was decided that the Forum should become an annual event.

► ***The IFES Resource Center***

The Resource Center made information and technical resources available to the growing organizations of the sector. A library was created with the large contribution of IFES/Washington that contained various topics of interest for the non-profit sector, such as democracy, rule of law, non-profit management, marketing, local and central governments, networking etc. The library has served as a sought after resource for NGO leaders anxious to improve their skill and knowledge. Information was collected on the funders active in Romania, their requirements and the type of programs they fund. NGOs were often assisted in preparing project proposals and, due to the high rate of success, IFES' prestige in the sector was dramatically enhanced. A database of active NGOs was created which included the types of programs developed by these organizations, and was used to circulate the information to other NGOs and interested funders. A quarterly newsletter, *Vocea Civica*, was produced and mailed to more than 400 civic leaders and NGOs present in the database.

3. Phase Three: The Birth of CENTRAS

The third phase was by no means characterized by a decline in the level of activities but, on the contrary, since CENTRAS' registration in April 1995 and the diversification of funders for the Romanian organization, the pace of operations increased. CENTRAS staff managed the regular operation of the office and programmatic activities. The focus of assistance was expanded to include

different segments within the civil society, such as social services NGOs and later gender NGOs.

► ***Legislative Initiatives***

Following a resolution of the 1995 Romanian NGO Forum, CENTRAS established a legislative workgroup that sought to amend the existing NGO Law, which needed to be updated since it originated in 1924. The workgroup was composed of legal and NGO experts, both from the NGO sector and from the government and judiciary. Since that initial legislative undertaking, IFES or CENTRAS were regularly asked by NGO groups to organize workgroups for the drafting of new legislation of interest to the non-profit sector. Despite the fact that modifications were not considered by Parliament, this initiative set a precedent for Romanian NGOs, many of which are currently promoting or take part in the drafting of legislation in their respective fields.

► ***InfoONG***

In response to an increasing demand for information on the activities of NGOs, CENTRAS designed and obtained funding for the production of a bi-monthly magazine, *InfoONG*. The magazine was, until late 1996, the only information source for the non-profit sector. Its mailing list grew from 1,000 in early 1996 to 2,500 in early 1997. The importance and quality of the magazine were recognized not only by NGOs but also by the other recipients, including the media, parliamentarians, central and local governments and government ministries. Due to its impact, several prestigious funders, including the Democracy Network Program, EC Phare and the Soros Foundation for an Open Society, became major contributors. It is expected that beginning in 1998, however, the magazine will become, at least in part, self-sustaining through subscriptions.

► ***Resource Center Network***

The CENTRAS Resource Center is currently expanding into a network of resource centers, built around the Bucharest facility, with partner organizations operating under CENTRAS supervision in 11 cities throughout Romania. The partners were selected based on competence and geographic coverage of the areas where information penetrated more slowly during the previous period. The network offers information and support in fundraising, training in office management as well as access to the information in the CENTRAS database.

► ***Legislative Workgroups***

As a result of the resolutions of the 1996 NGO Forum, CENTRAS established and secured funding for two legislative workgroups that drafted new legislation for sponsorship and the NGO Law. The Draft Sponsorship Law was completed and promoted with support by the new government. It is expected that this law will be debated in the Parliament during its 1997 autumn session, after the laws for economic reform are adopted. The new NGO Law will be introduced for debate and

adoption in the same parliamentary session.

► ***Partners '97***

As a result of a partnership established between CENTRAS and the Institute for East-West Studies, the 1997 Forum initiated a joint project, entitled *Partners '97*, based on encouraging cooperation between local administration, the private sector and the NGO sector for the benefit of the community.

B. TECHNICAL ELECTION ASSISTANCE

Beginning in 1992, IFES was present in Romania on a short-term basis, providing technical assistance to the Romanian government as it prepared for elections. In addition, IFES was involved in the promotion of a new electoral law and in the support of election-oriented domestic NGOs.

► ***Technical Assistance to the Central Election Bureaus (CEBs)***

Technical assistance was provided to the Central Electoral Bureaus, temporary bodies that exist during the election periods and have the authority to conduct the electoral process. IFES consultants provided expertise during the 1992 and 1996 local and general elections. Assessments were conducted prior to sending election administration and legal experts in order to identify problems and disputed issues in advance.

► ***Legal Assistance in Drafting Election Laws***

During the fall of 1994 and the Spring of 1995, an IFES-organized legislative working group focused on modifying the laws for the local and general elections, taking into account the observations and recommendations of the IFES missions that participated in the 1992 local and general elections. The working group included government and non-government experts in the field as well as two MPs. The draft laws were introduced in Parliament in March 1995 and received the support of more than 40 MPs. Despite the fact that legal experts and the general public supported the proposed changes, the parliamentary majority decided to ignore the draft laws, and later in the Spring 1996 produced a new law for local elections which contained several recommendations from the IFES-inspired legislative working group.

► ***Assistance to ProDemocracy Association***

IFES supported ProDemocracy Association in its voter turnout and voter education campaigns for local and general elections in 1996.

► ***Support for a Permanent Electoral Body***



Throughout the period of the project, IFES has supported the creation of a permanent electoral body, which is considered to be of great importance to the transparency and orderly conduct of the electoral process. IFES has sponsored the participation of Romanian government representatives and former election officials in the regional conferences of the Association of Central and Eastern Europe Election Officials (ACEEEO). The support for the creation of a permanent electoral body was clear in the Post-Electoral Conference held in December 1996 by the ProDemocracy Association, where IFES was invited to participate and share its expertise, where all parties attending - Central Election Commission members, governmental representatives, NGOs and journalists - agreed about the necessity of creating a permanent central election commission as soon as possible.

II. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ROMANIA

A. BACKGROUND

The development of civil society in Romania has been, since 1990, an interesting and dynamic process. In the aftermath of the revolution and with the advent of the long-denied freedom of association, came an explosion of associations, clubs, foundations, labor unions, parties, and other organizations and movements. The motivation of members was in most cases based on enthusiasm, anger and a release of long-repressed frustrations. In a few cases, it was based on a purely selfish economic motivation due to newly available funding from foreign sources for humanitarian causes or an occasion to grab some of the assets of former communist organizations. Based on these short-term motivations, many of these organizations disappeared while others evolved into more mature entities with a more gradual and purposeful growth, developing the rudiments of leadership and management.

Within 18 months, this process stabilized. The number of organizations being registered slowly diminished as did the number of active organizations and the degree of public participation. The currently active, self-supporting organizations are few but increasingly better able to sustain themselves, and are undergoing more ambitious programs. If in the first period these NGOs appeared as individual organizations striving to correct the most stringent needs of society - such as humanitarian needs, political abuse, and ecological disaster - at present one can observe a distinct movement toward the crystallization and qualitative growth of the sector as expressed through the institutionalization and association of NGOs, networking and improved communications, and the increasing instances of partnership and cooperation with the government.

This development, however, has been quite unequal, based on a number of circumstances:

- In Transylvania, where Western influences were strongest and the tradition of civil society never fully disappeared, the number and quality of organizations improved, assisted significantly by foreign aid which, for various reasons concentrated in these areas.
- In Muntenia and Moldova,¹ NGOs developed in an unequal manner, depending on local circumstances, the economic situation and local traditions. Except for large towns, political

¹ also known as Moldavia, a region within Romania.

and cultural centers where NGOs naturally cluster, the structured organizations on which a viable civil society depends were lacking.

- At the national level, one can also observe a division between large cities or towns and small towns and rural areas. The populations in rural areas especially adapted slowly and painfully but more thoroughly to communist rule, making them more conservative and unwilling to change. The attitude towards public participation is reluctant, and the traditionally paternalistic attitude of the authorities in these areas, who themselves have no experience of collaborating with NGOs, encourages apathy.
- Foreign assistance has had a tremendous impact, not only in terms of monetary contributions as much as in the responsibilities that funding implies, such as planning, project development, and financial responsibility. Unfortunately, in the beginning, this funding, as well as the little training provided in Romania, was oriented towards English-speaking NGOs based in large cities. Consequently, a certain specialization and cleavage deepened. An elite developed, which continued to receive foreign aid, while other organizations that did not benefit from initial assistance programs were neglected.

The dynamism of civil society has been spectacular in the last two years. From a strictly quantitative point of view, the progress has been remarkable. The Ministry of Justice database includes over 13,000 NGOs. The financial administration reported that in September, 11,721 NGOs had recorded financial operations. The relevance of these numbers is debatable as some incorporated NGOs may cover for commercial or other operations. Conversely, in some areas with strong voluntary and civic participation attitudes, the tendency is to strengthen the present structures rather than register new ones. In spite of this, a certain correlation can be observed between the general development of individual departments and the number of registered NGOs.

The differences are more acute and relevant in analyzing the level of quality in the NGO sector. The performance of organizations varies widely according to several factors, including exposure to management training, funding opportunities, and the attitude of local government authorities towards NGOs. In spite of the efforts of IFES and other organizations, the gap between the regions and the urban/rural environment remains large. However, the first signs of bridging this gap have appeared as information and training seminars have penetrated the regions. The seminars held by IFES and CENTRAS have helped significantly in increasing the number of approved grants and projects in some of these areas, i.e. Pitesti, Focsani, and Tulcea, thus providing the initial impetus for structural and attitudinal changes.

B. LEGAL AND REGULATORY CONSTRAINTS

Romania was fortunate in having a Law on Associations and Foundations (Law 21/1924) which the communists neglected to repeal. However, the law is outmoded in the following respects:

- It requires too many founders;
- It does not permit nonnatural persons to be founders, inhibiting the creation of associations of organizations;
- It does not pay attention to differentiation between legal form and governance structure;
- It requires ministry approval for registration, which is sometimes withheld. This is inconsistent with modern norms within the region and with the freedom of association principle, found in Article 37 of the Romanian Constitution;
- It provides for very strict control from the state.

C. FISCAL REGULATIONS

- NGOs are subject to the 18% VAT in Romania as none of their activities are tax-exempt. This is not consistent with Western practices, although it is frequently encountered in countries in which the IMF has exercised control over the budgetary process.
- A Sponsorship Law was passed in 1995, which allows for 5% of tax deductible expenditure for charitable and philanthropic activities including cultural, educational, scientific, religious, human rights, civic education and environmental.
- Public finance regulations forbid the expenditure of public money other than through state-controlled organizations. Exceptions to this are the Youth Ministry, and in part, the Ministry of Culture. This regulation prevents government institutions from sponsoring or working in partnership with NGOs. In spite of this regulation, there are known instances of government-funded so-called NGOs. Recently, the Ministry of Research passed a government decree stating that NGOs could receive direct funding for research from the Ministry. This is quite contested, and the Minister has asked for support from the NGO sector in lobbying for this piece of legislation as it has many opponents in Parliament.

D. FUNDING SOURCES FOR NGOS

The most recent document on the subject is a report prepared by the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, a European Union-funded program for financing NGOs which began its activities

in 1996. According to this report, funding sources for local NGOs include:

- **Membership fees and earned income.** At present this allows for only a minor portion of the overall funding but still it is significant that a number of them have started profitable activities.
- **Corporate funding.** Although still nascent, this process has begun and the newly proposed sponsorship law will increase the amount of corporate funding.
- **Government funding.** The present legal system makes government funding very difficult, except the Youth Ministry and Research Ministry. Still, some ministries have found ways and partners to finance some activities.
- **Donations.** Donors are the main supporters of NGO development and activity. The donors can be divided in two main categories:
 1. Major donors with offices in Romania, include: the SOROS Foundation for an Open Society, the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, the Regional Environmental Center, the European Community Delegation, USAID's Democracy Network Project, and AIDROM.
 2. Donors with headquarters abroad, which finance different projects include: the National Endowment for Democracy, the Institute for Democracy in Eastern Europe, German Marshall Fund, British Charity Know-How Fund, and other German and Hungarian organizations.

E. GOVERNMENT POLICY

The programmatic documents of the former Romanian government were quite generous regarding the development of civil society and NGO involvement in public policy. Unfortunately, these were of a very general nature, without concrete measures being determined. Also, some ministries have, or are supposed to have, offices for relations and communication with NGOs. Parliamentarians, on an individual basis, or in seminars dedicated to transparency, are quite open and encourage NGO participation and information sharing.

Unfortunately, the realities illustrate a different picture. At the operational level, there is a lack of trust and the "watch-dog" function of some NGOs, the main activity to date, has engendered an

antagonistic rather than collaborative attitude. In spite of regulations, in the rare cases where they exist, information is rarely available even if it is harmless. Recently, there is a more open attitude exhibited by public servants toward NGOs and a certain disposition towards "unfreezing" relations. Whether it is due to international pressures and standards or a sincere wish for cooperation is a matter of debate. Another interesting aspect of this equation is the policy of the Ilescu government to evade some of its duties with the help of government-created or government-controlled NGOs, the so-called GONGOs, through which other organizations and activities are funded and organized. Among these organizations are the Foundation for Management, A Future for Romania Foundation, and the Youth Foundations.

The executive branch of the government has generally ignored the NGO sector. In some instances, it would pay attention to certain complaints of some NGOs but only on a limited basis and often for the sake of appearances. Under the pressure of approaching elections in 1996, the government increased its availability, and the department charged with the development of civil society, at the instigation urging of Phare consultants, opened the meetings of the Interministerial Task Force on Civil Society (GLIM). As a result, representatives of the NGO FORUM and CENTRAS have been invited to these meetings and other events. The positive aspect of this opening has been that legislation restricting the activities of NGOs has been effectively blocked at this level. At the level of individual ministries, barring some exceptional cases (GONGOs and political affiliates), the relationship has been wholly dependent on the individual attitude of the respective public servant. In the few cases where an institutionalized form of cooperation has existed, this has been tenuous if not restrictive or even reactionary.

Concerning the relationship between NGOs and the former Parliament, the situation can generally be characterized as uncooperative. Irrespective of the political position of government leaders, their attitude varied little, ranging from completely ignoring the demands of NGOs to being kindly indifferent.

The situation is more promising when looking at the relationship with local government. Local governments have generally responded to the informational role and civic involvement generated by civil society NGOs.

This is not the case, however, with specific local government institutions (i.e. schools, police forces, etc.) where centralized decision-making makes collaboration difficult and reduces interest. The relationship of civil society with educational institutions is particularly interesting. The obvious need for alternative educational programs is met with an almost allergic reaction by officials opposed to any political intrusion in the school environment, citing alleged fear of possible "political

manipulation" of students. At present, following the local, general, and presidential elections, expectations are very high. The new local administration in most towns seems open to collaboration with NGOs. A good example is the significant number of invitations addressed to CENTRAS requesting its participation in partnership projects between the Bucharest sectors' city halls and NGOs. Unfortunately, local budgetary legislation has yet to be passed. Also, collaboration between local governments and NGOs has reached various levels in different areas. In many areas, NGOs seem to concentrate on monitoring the administration, while in other cases an active partnership toward transparency and information exchange has been achieved.

There are good prospects for collaboration with the new executive. Individually, from the Prime Minister, with his union activist background, to the government's Secretary General, a sympathizer of the NGO movement, one can expect a greater opening and disposition for collaboration. In the past few months, the executive branch has shown a willingness to cooperate with NGOs in drafting legislation and circulating information. As a remarkable example, the CENTRAS-promoted Sponsorship Law has been endorsed by the Ministry of Culture and will probably be promoted by the government, despite the fact that the Ministry of Youth has prepared its own draft.

The new President, Mr. Emil Constantinescu, a college professor and former NGO leader himself, has repeatedly vowed to be a facilitator between civil society and the state. He is regarded with a great deal of sympathy within the civil society sector. One of his initiatives, for example, was the creation of local anti-corruption commissions, where he recommended the presence of a representative of the NGO sector as a member of the commission.

III. A CHRONOLOGY OF IFES ACTIVITY IN ROMANIA

- SPRING 1992:** Election assessment and assistance mission sent to Romania for the local elections; consultants Marta Maria Villaveces and Charles Lasham work directly with the Central Election Bureau and its president, Hon. Ovidiu Zarnescu, providing recommendations and advice on law interpretation; during election day, they act as international observers; at the end of the mission, they submit a final report with conclusions and recommendations on improving the law as well as its enforcement.
- SUMMER 1992:** Election assistance mission sent to Romania for the parliamentary and presidential elections; consultant Marta Maria Villaveces works directly with the Central Election Bureau and its president, Hon. Paul Florea, providing consultation and advice on law interpretation; contacts are established with the Government's Department of Local Public Administration to ensure the logistical aspects of the elections.
- The Civic Education Project hosts its first conference in Bucharest; IFES Director of Programs Juliana Geran Pilon, former Project Director Obie Moore and IFES consultant Terry Holcomb take part in this event; consultations conducted with civic leaders and NGO representatives.
- AUTUMN 1992:** IFES organizes a National Conference on Election Administration in Brasov, Romania; during election day, Ms. Villaveces acts as an international observer; at the end of the mission, Ms. Villaveces submits a final report with conclusions and recommendations on improving the law as well as its enforcement.
- The Civic Education Program continues its consultations with civic leaders and NGO representatives.
- WINTER 1992/1993:** The first in-country seminars for civic leaders take place; partnership established with two large NGOs that have in-country networks: League for the Defense of Human Rights and ProDemocracy Association.
- SPRING 1993:** Three more seminars for civic leaders take place; IFES is at the early stages



of establishing an informal network of civic leaders and NGOs;

Former president of the CEB Paul Florea participates in the ACEEEO conference in Budapest, Hungary.

- SUMMER 1993:** IFES launches the quarterly *Vocea Civica* Newsletter for the NGO sector; the Resource Center is put in place; assistance is provided to former participants of seminars in registering NGOs and fundraising. Technical assistance also provided to Bucharest organizations through the use of IFES offices facilities.
- AUTUMN 1993:** First regional conference for NGOs takes place in Brasov, Romania; participants ask IFES to act as an umbrella organization and focus part of its efforts on creating an organized frame for debate within the sector.
- WINTER 1993/1994:** IFES organizes four more civic leader seminars; information on NGOs is collected in order to prepare the list of participants for the first Romanian NGO Forum; assistance to NGOs continues.
- SPRING 1994:** First Romanian NGO Forum takes place in Sinaia, Romania; invitees include prominent MPs and government representatives, international funders as well as NGO and media representatives and international experts. It is the first NGO event to have serious impact in the media.
- SUMMER 1994:** IFES continues its series of civic education seminars, organized with the support of local organizations identified through research; IFES responds to requests of collaboration from Civic Alliance in organizing public fora in Alba Iulia and from Albamont (an environmental association) to organize a public debate in Zlatna (one of the most polluted cities of Europe); as a result of the latter, the Romanian Government approves a \$2,000,000 grant for the re-technologization of the polluting factory; two more civic education seminars take place.
- AUTUMN 1994:** IFES Project Manager Dorin Tudoran takes on the leadership of the IFES presence in Romania. Three more civic education seminars take place.
- WINTER 1994/1995:** IFES Legislative workgroup starts working on amendments to the electoral laws.

Two more civic education seminars take place.

SPRING 1995: The draft laws for local and general elections are deposited with the Romanian Parliament, following a series of public meetings and press conferences.

With senior guidance from Project Manager Dorin Tudoran and IFES/W program staff, CENTRAS becomes formally registered with the Romanian authorities; the second Romanian NGO Forum takes place in Brasov, Romania, organized in partnership with the Foundation for Pluralism; more than 100 organizations are represented; for the first time, the Forum adopts a resolution with regard to NGO legislation, empowering IFES/CENTRAS to set-up a legislative workgroup for the amendment of the NGO Law; other resolutions are adopted, requesting the government to take action on several issues identified by NGOs in the environmental and human rights fields.

SUMMER 1995: Contacts made with government officials and MPs to promote the Forum's resolutions; the transfer phase from IFES to CENTRAS begins.

AUTUMN 1995: IFES assessment mission for the 1996 local elections has a series of consultations at all levels, both in the country and in Bucharest; election administration experts Paul DeGregorio and Charles Lasham draw up a report with conclusions and recommendations.

IFES and USAID negotiate a modification to the existing IFES Civic Education Project allowing a CENTRAS its first grant for \$24,790; two training seminars take place in previous locations of civic education seminars; the NGO law workgroup starts its activities.

WINTER 1995/1996: Training in-country seminars for NGOs; CENTRAS establishes *InfoONG* (first issue appears in February 1996); the focus of technical assistance is extended to cultural and social NGOs.

SPRING 1996: IFES supports ProDemocracy's voter education and turnout program for the local elections.

The third NGO Forum is organized by CENTRAS in partnership with



Managers Without Borders; the organizations empower CENTRAS to set-up workgroups for the modification of the NGO Law, Sponsorship Law, and to draft the Freedom of Information Act; the government invites three representatives of the Forum and a CENTRAS representative to participate in the Interministerial Workgroup for Civil Society.

- SUMMER 1996:** CENTRAS launches the idea of a network of resource centers designed to foster the development of the NGO sector; potential partners are identified; two training seminars organized in which future partners take participate.
- AUTUMN 1996:** IFES consultant Daniel Finn provides technical expertise to the CEB; IFES designs, organizes and conducts a domestic observer lottery, ensuring maximum coverage of polling stations; for the first time in Romania, the results of the poll are posted on the World Wide Web, as a result of a collaboration between IFES and the CEB; IFES supports ProDemocracy's voter education and turnout program for the parliamentary and presidential elections.
- WINTER 1996/1997:** CENTRAS holds the first resource center network members' meeting; two more training seminars held in cities of network members. *InfoONG* begins to be published on a monthly basis. CENTRAS embarks upon a partnership with the city hall of the sixth sector of Bucharest. The Sponsorship Law workgroup commences its activities.
- SPRING 1997:** The Draft Sponsorship Law is produced; lobbying activities by CENTRAS for the promotion of the law; government and parliamentary support obtained; partnership with the Institute for East-West Studies in a project that aims at creating an atmosphere for cooperation between local governments, the private and the non-profit sectors.

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY IFES/CENTRAS
1992 - 1997

LOCATION	PARTNER ORGANIZATION	TYPE
Brasov	IRDO--Romanian Institute for Human Rights	Election Administration Conference
Medias	LADO--League for the Defense of Human Rights	Civic Education Seminar
Sibiu	ProDemocracy Association	Civic Education Seminar
Sighisoara	LADO	Civic Education Seminar
Alba Iulia	Civic Alliance	Public Forum
Zlatna	Albamont	Environmental Seminar
Baia Mare	Fratia Trade Union	Civic Education Seminar
Tirgoviste	AREDDO--Romanian Association for Democratic Education and Human Rights	Civic Education Seminar
Pitesti	Semper Virent	Civic Education Seminar
Alexandria	ProDemocracy Association	Civic Education Seminar
Caracal	ProDemocracy Association	Civic Education Seminar
Galati	n/a	Network Training Seminar
Tulcea	APTRF--Romanian - French Friendship Association	Civic Education Seminar
Sfantu Gheorghe	Cercul de Turism Nemira	Civic Education Seminar
Suceava	Youth Foundation	Civic Education Seminar

LOCATION	PARTNER ORGANIZATION	TYPE
Focsani	AVP--Association of People Originating from Valcea Judet	Civic Education Seminar
Focsani	FCVS--Foundation for the Conservation of Wildlife	Training for NGOs
Targu Mures	Rhododendron	Network Training Seminar
Ramnicu Valcea	ProDemocracy Association	Network Training Seminar
Satu Mare	ProEurope League	Network Training Seminar
Piatra Neamt	Ecomont	Network Training Seminar
Constanta	Students' League	Civic Education Seminar
Brasov	ProDemocracy Association	Civic Leader Conference
Iasi	LADO	Civic Leader Conference
Campina	Civic Alliance	Public Forum
Ploiesti	Civic Alliance	Public Forum
Bucuresti	n/a	Civic Leader Conference
Bucuresti	Support Centers International	Financial Management Seminar
Tulcea	APTRF	Network Training Seminar
Bucuresti	Politea	Public Forum
Ramet	Albamont	Environmental Seminar
Sinaia	n/a	NGO Forum '94
Bucuresti	Managers Without Borders	NGO Forum '96
Brasov	Foundation for Pluralism	NGO Forum '95

IV. THE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAM: THE VOCEA CIVICA PROJECT

The IFES Civic Education Program was designed to help the emerging NGO sector in Romania organize and develop. The goal of the program was to establish and consolidate the emerging democracy through the strengthening of the civil sector.

A. INITIAL PREPARATIONS

The first phase of the project began with the establishment of a local office in Bucharest. Within weeks of arrival, the IFES staff organized its first conference in Bucharest, focusing on civic education and developing ways to improve civic participation. Among the participants were government officials, nationally recognized civic leaders, journalists and representatives of international bodies active in Romania. The conference considered the state of democracy in Romania and ways to help foster the development of the civil sector, especially of non-governmental organizations. One of the conclusions of the conference was that special attention should be awarded to the areas outside Bucharest, where information was slower to penetrate, if at all. In addition, it was decided that lack of communication within the NGO sector made regional conferences necessary for maximum outreach.

The IFES program was designed to be flexible, in order to respond to the changing needs of an emerging democracy. Following a series of consultations with NGO and civic leaders from the capital and other regions, a decision was made for the first period, the program should focus on the areas where the first signs of organized civic activities were appearing. Also, the seminars/public meetings would have to present the advantages of organized rather than individual action, stimulating the creation of NGOs that respond to the needs of the local community. In addition, the seminars were designed to include presentations and debates on topics such as: the rule of law, Romanian constitution, economic development, leadership, the role of objective media, among other topics. The Trainers included IFES staff, independent consultants, experienced NGO leaders, representatives of other international NGOs active in Romania, and scholars.

In order to set up an effective program at the national scale, IFES began looking for active NGOs around the country, building a database of names, organizations and projects. This was necessary, because the number of registered NGOs at that time (6,000) was much higher than the number of those actually active. Simultaneously, information was collected on the main donors active in

Romania in order to make it available to interested NGOs.

Through an agreement with the Houghton-Mifflin publishing house and the Soros Foundation for an Open Society, IFES brought to Romania approximately 15,000 books (including topics on: the Challenge of Democracy, Business, Marketing, Western Civilization, State and Local Government, Technical Report Writing, etc). The books were distributed nationwide to libraries, universities, NGOs and to the participants of the IFES-organized events. IFES involved NGOs that established networks throughout the country, such as the ProDemocracy Association and the League for the Defense of Human Rights to distribute the materials. In addition, the IFES seminars were used to disseminate brochures and booklets produced by USIS.

B. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The first regional conference took place in Brasov in November 1992 for NGOs from both Transylvania and Wallachia. It was attended by more than 80 NGO leaders as well as state officials and journalists. The two-day event was mainly dedicated to the analysis of necessary improvements in the legal framework regulating the NGO sector and on ways to improve vertical and horizontal communications within the sector. There were several workshops on subjects such as leadership, relations with the state authorities and public participation. Issues that were identified as a problem for the sector included the low degree of public participation due to economic conditions as well as fear and a lack of trust inherited from the past communist experience. As one participant stated, "The task of NGOs is to help transform inhabitants into citizens." Another problem that was analyzed was a lack of communication and cooperation among NGOs owing to the same lack of trust and lack of communication between the organizations as well as the perception of competition. Information on funding opportunities had reached only the capital and some large cities thus making it very difficult for most NGOs to survive. Expertise in organizational management was also identified as insufficient and training in fundraising was requested. Access to information was very restricted, if not by law then by bureaucracy, and NGOs were not seen as social partners by either the administration or parliament.

The first series of seminars took place early in 1993 in Transylvania and included the cities of Medias, Sibiu and Sighisoara. While in Sibiu and Medias there were well-established NGOs, in Sighisoara, the associative process was only just beginning. Local authorities were interested in these events, and were eager to cooperate. Complaints focused on the lack of information available, and IFES was asked to address this problem. In response, IFES began publishing its quarterly newsletter and distributed it to each participant at IFES-organized events throughout the Spring 1993.

In March 1993, a regional conference was organized around the same topics in Iasi for the region of Moldova. Generally, participants had the same concerns as heard in Brasov, with a special consideration shown for social problems, as this region was more economically undeveloped as compared to the others. One serious concern was the involvement of politics in the activity of NGOs. The importance of a common NGO position with regard to this subject was underlined. Also, the lack of coverage by the media was listed as a serious problem for NGOs.

Typically, organizing a civic education seminar began with finding, either from the database or based on personal contacts, a suitable local partner (NGO or civic leader) that was given the responsibility to compile the participant list and invitations for officials and media² while IFES staff would be in charge of seminar logistics and trainers. Generally, the seminars lasted two days and included hands-on leadership or proposal writing exercises with every presentation followed by a question and answer period. Participants were encouraged to work in groups and identify real problems for their community and try to solve them together, irrespective of their political orientation, a significant element at the time. The participants were asked to let IFES know of any follow-up activities that might occur. All participants received the IFES quarterly newsletter and were included in the NGO database.

Among frequent partners for the organization of the civic education seminars were the ProDemocracy Association and the League for the Defense of Human Rights, which benefited from IFES' expertise and support in their election-related programs.

The civic education seminars continued to be an important part of the project until 1996 when the focus moved completely toward strengthening existing NGOs. NGOs participating in the seminars, or those that emerged as a result of seminars, were assisted by the Resource Center. Also, the agenda of the seminars was modified, once the local NGOs became able to identify the topics that interested them most. As a result, each seminar was customized according to the specific request of the partner organization. More than 700 persons representing 267 organizations were trained through the IFES Civic Education Seminars and Regional Conferences during 1992-1995.

C. NGO FORUMS, 1994-1997

Based on input received during the conferences as well as the opinions expressed by other leaders during a subsequent series of meetings, IFES decided to organize a national forum of Romanian

² At that time, the best way to secure participation in the seminars was through personal relations.

NGOs. Due to its success, this initiative has turned into an institution of Romanian civil society, becoming an annual event held during the first half of each year.

1. Sinaia, 1994 NGO Forum

The Romanian NGO Forum was an initiative of the IFES Civic Education Program in Romania in an effort to foster the public recognition of the civil sector and to create communication channels within the NGO community and between NGOs and state institutions. The first Forum was held in Sinaia in the spring of 1994 and was attended by more than 60 NGO leaders as well as MPs, government representatives and representatives of international funders. The Forum was deemed a major success as it offered the first opportunity for NGOs and state institutions to debate the major problems of the third sector and establish channels of communication. It also provided funders with an opportunity to meet the most active NGOs in six key sectors including: human rights, civic, mass media, economic development, youth and environmental protection.

2. Brasov, 1995 NGO Forum

In 1995, the second NGO Forum was held in Brasov. The number of participant NGOs increased to almost 100, and local administration representatives were invited to attend the event. It was generally accepted that one of the most important aspects of the Forum was to stimulate the involvement of NGOs in public policy formulation. One of the characteristics of Romanian NGOs at that time was a reluctance to get involved in public policy as this was negatively perceived as "political involvement". Another problem of the sector that the Forum successfully addressed was the lack of information on funding opportunities for NGOs and the funders' desire to meet with reliable and active NGOs throughout the country. With the exception of the Soros Foundation for an Open Society, most funding organizations only had offices in Bucharest and little information on NGOs operating outside the capital was available. This meant that Bucharest-based organizations had access to a significantly larger share of available funds while NGOs located outside of Bucharest were generally struggling for survival.

The public image of the NGO sector was greatly improved as a result of the Forum. Until 1994, the media's knowledge of NGOs was restricted to welfare activities and human rights issues but the quality and quantity of information regarding the NGO sector and its activities dramatically

improved following the event.³ Also, elected representatives became aware of the importance of the NGO community and began, albeit very slowly, to recognize NGOs as partners in the democratic process.

3. Bucharest, 1996 NGO Forum

In 1996, CENTRAS took over the organization of the premier NGO event in Romania. Recognizing the development and increased structure of the sector, CENTRAS enlarged the scope of the event by inviting social and cultural NGOs to take part in the 1996 Forum. Because throughout the year there were numerous requests to attend the 1996 Forum, and the scarcity of available funds limited participation, a Coordinating Committee was created to select participant NGOs and establish the agenda for the event. The Committee was formed with the participation of leading NGO experts, funder representatives and experienced NGO leaders. Based on a thorough analysis, 120 NGOs were selected out of more than 300 that applied for invitations. The importance of the event was underscored by the high number of requests for attendance received during the week prior to the Forum, when central newspapers and TV channels turned the spotlight on the event. Throughout its 4 days, the Forum was attended by around 200 participants and received constant and positive coverage from the media.

The debates focused on the new NGO Law to replace the old Law dating from 1924. There were two initiatives taken into consideration: one was the working group created as a result of a resolution of the 1995 Forum, and another decree from the Justice Ministry. Nine resolutions were adopted by the Forum including the presence of observers in the 1996 general elections.

Two results require special mention:

- the creation of an informal network of public policy NGOs that addressed the need for quick reaction by the NGO community regarding government and parliamentary activities that concern the public sector (especially legal initiatives); and
- the invitation addressed to the Forum by the Romanian Government to designate representatives for the sector to participate in a government structure, The Inter-Ministry Working Group, that deals with public sector issues. One of the elected representatives is the

³ This lack of information may also be blamed on the NGOs, for not putting effort into making themselves known to the public.

consultant for social NGOs.

4. Bucharest, 1997 NGO Forum

The 1997 NGO Forum took place during June 5-8 in Bucharest, following similar themes as the 1996 event, with special attention granted by the media and the government. Two of the opening speeches were provided by President Emil Constantinescu and Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea. Another difference was the invitation addressed to NGOs from the gender sector which replaced the media sector whose NGO activity had declined.

The goal of the Forum was to increase the efficiency of Romanian public policy NGOs and of the public support received by these organizations in their activities.

The objectives of the Forum were to: raise mutual trust among the three sectors of Romanian society - public, private and government; provide Romanian NGOs with public policy activities and the occasion to identify, debate and unite on issues of interest for the Romanian NGO community; improve collaboration and networking among NGOs with public policy concerns; create and develop communication channels between the NGO community and the Government and Parliament; improve the public image of public policy NGOs through media coverage of the event; assess the current status and trends of the NGO sector, sharing the information with interested parties (i.e. the government, funders, media, and NGOs); improve the regulatory framework for Romanian NGOs; disseminate information on NGO initiatives for the reform of the public domain.

The means to reach the proposed objectives were:

- the preparation, prior to the Forum, of white papers for each sector of the NGO community that describe the status of development, problems and trends of NGOs. The white papers, along with resolutions and other relevant documents were integrated into a booklet to be distributed both in-country and abroad, totaling more than 1,500 copies;
- providing an opportunity for dialogue among representatives of the three sectors of Romanian society: public, private and government;
- providing NGOs with an opportunity to meet the most important funders active in Romania;
- lectures on general interest topics in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Romanian NGOs;

- the affiliation of Romanian NGOs with international NGO networks;
- providing a space for dialogue among NGOs from the same sector so as to facilitate an exchange of experience and prevent the duplication of efforts; and
- creating workgroups to draft legal initiatives in domains that affect the NGO sector. The workgroups were created after the Forum and consist of NGO representatives with juridical training, legal experts and governmental experts.

The expected outcomes of the Forum are:

- improvement of the “horizontal communication”- within the NGO community;
- improvement of the “vertical communication”- between NGOs, state institutions and local administration;
- improvement of the regulatory framework for the Romanian NGOs;
- an increase in public awareness of the importance of the NGO sector;
- improvement of the public image of NGOs with greater media focus on their activities;
- an increase in the membership of NGOs as a result of their improved public image;
- recognition by state institutions of NGOs as stakeholders in the legislative process. better coordination among the international funders active in Romania;
- increased cooperation among Romanian NGOs with similar organizations in Europe; and
- strengthening of the informal network of Romanian public policy NGOs created following the 1996 Forum.

D. OTHER EVENTS

As a result of the prestige enjoyed by IFES among the NGO community, IFES was often solicited as a partner for national or international organizations in organizing public fora, seminars and

conferences. Positive responses were based on their relevance for the project's overall scope of work. Some examples of such events organized by IFES include: a series of public meetings in the Prahova judet in partnership with the Civic Alliance; an environmental seminar in Zlatna with *Albamont* of Alba Iulia; and a conference entitled "Democracy in Transition" held in Bucharest with the Soros Foundation for an Open Society.

While the other two received increased attention from the media and participants, it seems however that the most valuable was the event in Zlatna, held in February 1994. Zlatna is one of the most polluted cities in Europe, due to its copper-processing plant.⁴ The efforts of environmental groups to convince the managers of the plant to introduce new technology that would reduce the pollution had not been successful. IFES invited and secured the participation of the Minister of Environment and other high-ranking government officials, international experts, Romanian NGOs and representatives of local administration and media. After very tense, but constructive debates, the participants agreed on the necessity of taking action to cut down the pollution in the area. While USAID offered to support the project, the Romanian government later allocated \$5 million for new technology. The media brought the problem to the public's attention until the government took steps to resolve it. IFES received credit for this successful initiative, both from the media and the participants, and established valuable relations with several officials from the Romanian government and parliament.

More than 600 people participated in the events organized by IFES with different partners. The media impact was very significant, and IFES was praised for its contributions to the advancement of democracy in Romania.

These events were also an excellent opportunity for establishing personal contacts with journalists, politicians and scholars, to be used later in other IFES programs.

E. NGO RESOURCE AND ASSISTANCE CENTER

The IFES NGO Resource Center was established as a result of the requests received from the NGO community. The Center was designed to meet the needs of the evolving NGOs in Bucharest and neighboring regions, as well as serve as an information center to be used by Romanian NGOs, international funders and institutions interested in identifying recipients for funds.

⁴ The life expectancy is 14 years lower than the rest of the country.

Throughout its 5 years of existence, the Center has been a valued resource for the NGO community, with more than 1,000 NGOs benefiting from its activity. The high number of letters and calls of appreciation received during this period demonstrates the importance of the center for NGOs.

A special contribution from IFES/Washington allowed the Bucharest office to establish a library that contains many pieces of interest to the NGO community on topics such as: leadership, democracy, state and local governments, economic development, marketing, management, education, technical skills, environmental protection, among others.

Also, the Center has received contributions from USIS, British Know How Fund and European Foundation Center. Principal Romanian contributors have been the Humanitas Publishing House, the International Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and the Corneliu Leu Foundation. The library was also supplied with official publications of the Romanian government.

There have consistently been many requests for the services offered by the Center, including:

- access to the library
- access to the NGO and funders databases
- assistance in fundraising
- assistance in preparing project proposals and associated budgets
- access to IFES' equipment
- access to IFES' communication facilities
- access to information from and on the NGO sector

All the organizations that were assisted by IFES in writing project proposals have, subsequently, received funding, creating a solid reputation for the Center. The IFES office was also requested to provide international visitors with briefings on the current status of Romania's democracy.

F. CENTRAS: CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE ROMANIAN ORGANIZATION

Ever since the elaboration of its program for Romania, IFES intended to leave behind a viable organization upon the conclusion of its activity.

It was no surprise that, as the project neared its completion, in 1995, the IFES staff registered a Romanian non-profit organization, The Assistance Center for NGOs (CENTRAS). At that point, in order to help establish the name of the new organization, the project activities were run under a common IFES/CENTRAS banner.



The organization benefited from the experience gathered by its staff as employees of the IFES Civic Education Project, as well as from the use of the office space and IFES equipment which was donated to CENTRAS upon the completion of the project. In addition use of equipment and trained local staff, CENTRAS was granted a \$24,790 sub-grant from IFES which originated from USAID. This key grant to CENTRAS paved the road toward future acceptance by the international community and facilitated a sense of fiscal respect for the young NGO. Along with these benefits came the use of IFES civic and election contacts, including decision-makers and technical experts, which have proved to be a valuable resource for the young organization. IFES' non-partisan approach was continued by CENTRAS, which enabled the new organization to have an excellent start. In addition to funds secured from other sources, these funds proved to be essential for the rapid development of the organization.

The two organizations co-existed until the end of 1996, when the IFES Election Assistance Program was completed. However, there are possibilities for future collaboration as CENTRAS (along with the ProDemocracy Association) plans to begin lobbying the government for a permanent electoral body.

V. CENTRAS ACTIVITY REPORT, OCTOBER 1995 - MARCH 1997

During the period October 1995 - March 1997, CENTRAS contributed to the development of Romanian civil society by identifying, fostering and assisting emerging NGOs. Using a proactive approach, CENTRAS has: organized "Civil Society Development" seminars and the leading event for the NGO community, the Romanian NGO Forum; developed a Resource Center; established legislative working groups; and published and distributed a bi-monthly NGO magazine.

A. THE RESOURCE CENTER

The NGO Resource Center is a heavily used resource for Romanian NGOs lacking access to books, publications, and information on funding opportunities, current legislation, and NGOs in general. The Center currently houses over 450 books and hundreds of publications not readily available to representatives of many NGOs in Romania. In the last year alone, CENTRAS has added more than 200 new publications.

Since September 1995, over 300 NGOs have used the Resource Center facilities. The Center provided free of charge advice and consultative services on the following problem areas for NGOs: proposal writing, fundraising, and funding opportunities; finding similar organizations for cooperation and collaboration on joint projects; legal and financial regulations for NGOs and their registration; drafting and preparation of narrative and financial reports for funders and other materials in Romanian, English, and French; consulting for logistical arrangements and management of seminars.

B. THE RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK

In November 1996, CENTRAS began the process of establishing a Resource Center Network. After a period of consultations with many NGOs, 12 NGOs were chosen from all over the country to form the network. The members of the network will provide the same type of services at the local level as CENTRAS provides. Of course, they will have complete support from CENTRAS with problems they are not able to resolve and areas they are not sufficiently able to address. The purpose of the network is to increase efficiency and expand outreach. On November 29, 1996, the members of the network met in a one day session to get acquainted for an initial briefing. During February and March 1997, CENTRAS finished the process of registration of legal agreements with all the partners in the network and fixed the agenda for 1997.

C. CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Civil Society Development Seminars have been organized and conducted for representatives of NGOs in smaller cities and communities that have not had access to the information and resources available to NGOs in larger cities. Following a needs assessment study, several geographical areas were identified where the quality and quantity of public participation and NGO activity was very low. CENTRAS organized seminars in Suceava, Focsani, Pitesti, Targu Mures, Sapanta, Tulcea, and Craiova. The seminars were organized in conjunction with a local NGO previously identified as capable and locally well known.

The specific topics for each seminar were different according to the specific needs of individual cities. Printed materials, relevant to the seminars, were distributed to all the participants in Romanian and English.

Generally, topics included: the role of civil society; the relationship between NGOs and local administration; an overview of funders with programs in Romania; and practical training exercises in proposal writing, leadership, and motivating volunteers. Each seminar had approximately 30-50 participants representing local NGOs, local administration and media.

1. Suceava Seminar, December 1995

The seminar jointly organized with the local youth NGO Info-Center, was attended by 30 local representatives, bringing together the local elected government, political party representatives, NGO leaders, and media representatives. The agenda included an introduction to CENTRAS activities by Alexandru R. Savulescu and was followed by the topics: "Democracy Network Program in Romania and its Vision on the Implication of NGOs in the Democratization Process" by Adriana Stoica (Project Officer at DNP); "Connecting Between NGOs and Local Authorities Through Common Finance" by Lorena Stoica (The Fund for the Development of the Euro-Carpathian Regions); "NGOs and the Electoral System" by Nicu Beldie (Association of Layers for Human Rights Defense); and "Presentation of the Center for the Development of NGOs" by Simona A. Popovici (Training Coordinator at the Center for the Development of the NGOs).

2. Focsani Seminar, February 1996

The seminar was organized with the assistance of the local Foundation for the Conservation of Wild Life. The seminar entitled "NGO Management - Proposal Writing", was attended by 35 local representatives, bringing together NGO leaders and members, and media representatives. The agenda

of the two day seminar included an introduction to CENTRAS activities and lectures on NGO management and proposal writing presented by CENTRAS staff. The second part of the first day and the second day were used to develop proposal writing skills. Several groups were formed with CENTRAS staff assessing the progress of every group and providing constructive feedback. The groups then exchanged projects and criticized them. At the end of the seminar, several proposal were drafted in almost final form for possible funders at the REC Local Office, PHARE Small Grants Commission and the Ministry of Youth. At least one of these proposals was accepted.

3. Pitesti Seminar, March 1996

The seminar was jointly organized with Semper Virent and was attended by 38 local representatives, bringing together local administration, NGO leaders and media. The one day seminar began with an introduction to CENTRAS activities by Dorin Tudoran, President of the CENTRAS Board. Mr. Tudoran also spoke on the topic of "NGOs: Resource of Local Development" and initiated debates on it. The agenda also included: "The Local Administration and NGOs Together for Local Administration Reform" by Kristina Creosteanu, local inspector at the Public Relations Department of Local Council Brasov, and "The Role of NGOs in the Promotion of Public Private Partnership" by Gabriela Matei, Executive Director at International City/County Management Association - Romanian Project.

4. Targu Mures and Sapanta Seminars, August 1996

The audience, 15 - 18 people, were the members of an environmental association, Rhododendron, a locally well known public policy and advocacy NGO. The seminar was held by a team made up of: Dan Petrescu, Viorel Micescu, Carmen Grecu representing CENTRAS, and Dorin Iancu of Albamont.

The agenda, established in conjunction with the leadership of Rhododendron, comprised:

1. A general description of the concept and role of civil society and public participation - the legal framework;
2. Case studies on public participation and the action of NGOs (Zlatna and the NGO Albamont);
3. Development of a project idea; and
4. Proposal writing.

From Targu Mures, the CENTRAS team went to Sapanta and provided assistance to the parish of Sapanta a well known village in the historic province of Maramures. The local parish intends to build

a monastery that will include a "bolnita", a traditional type of shelter, hospital for the local poor and homeless and create a foundation for this purpose. With CENTRAS assistance in the writing of the proposal the parish obtained part of the money they required for the establishment of the hospital.

5. Tulcea Seminar, September 1996

The seminar "Development of Civil Society" was organized by CENTRAS and a Romanian - French Friendship Association. The targeted audience for this seminar was people likely to influence the development of NGOs and democracy generally. Members of the local government, judet counselors, the senator and deputy representing Tulcea in the Parliament, and directors or representatives of the main businesses in the region were present. Unusually active and dedicated were the members of the NGOs present: branches of the Civic Alliance, Pro Democracy, SECS, OR, as well as local groups Ecodelta, Prodelta, and others.

Senator Elena Preda welcomed CENTRAS and the event, the first of its kind in Tulcea, "a place where nothing happens" as the participants described it, during her opening comments. The welcoming address was followed by a presentation by CENTRAS' Dan Petrescu, who also chaired the seminar. The topic of civil society included discussion on: the terminology and its philosophy, its evolution in Romania, and the legal environment.

After discussions and a break, the proceedings continued with a presentation by Ms. Ioana Luca from the Regional Environmental Center on issues concerning public participation in environmental problems. After lunch (covered through sponsorship by local businessmen), Ms. Maria Georgescu from ARAS (an anti-AIDS association) addressed the audience on the problems and state of social sector organizations in Romania. After some very lively discussions, the proceedings continued with an interesting presentation by Ms. Dana Nicolescu, Executive Director of Opportunity Associates, on various fundraising techniques, including British, American and Romanian examples.

The second day began with a presentation by a panel which included Ms. Ioana Ieronim, Soros Foundation, Dana Nicolescu and Dan Petrescu on funding opportunities. The participants expressed their wonder at the number of possibilities. Following the discussions, Ms. Virginia Enescu from The Romanian-American Enterprise Fund held a presentation on the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit and the liberal economy in our present society. The rest of the day, including the lunch break, was spent in a leadership exercise.

6. Craiova Seminar, November 1996



The seminar in Craiova was organized and conducted with the help of the Public Administration Training Center-Craiova. The seminar attracted nearly 30 participants, including representatives from NGOs and local government. Dan Petrescu, former Executive Director of CENTRAS (1995-1997), opened the seminar with overview presentations on the work of CENTRAS and the role of NGOs in society. This was followed by presentations by Gabriela Matei, Executive Director of the ICMA's Center for Study and Program Development, on partnership between citizens, NGOs, and local administration and by Mihaela Dudau, "Ecomont" Foundation, on three specific models for collaboration between NGOs and local public administration. The first day ended with an overview of the Ialomita Judet's Citizen Information Center by Nela Mocanu, the Center's Director. The presentations generated a good deal of interest and discussion among the participants. The second day began with Mr. Petrescu reviewing the previous day's activities and then providing an overview of the main funding organizations operating in Romania. Jeff Hartshorn, National Forum Foundation AVID Volunteer with CENTRAS, discussed successful proposal writing techniques as a preview to the proposal writing exercise which lasted the rest of the second day. The participants were unaware of many of the funding opportunities that exist and found the proposal writing exercise useful. CENTRAS staff observed and assisted NGOs in finding common ground in their interests and developing plans for future action.

7. Piatra Neamt Seminar, December 1996

The seminar was jointly organized and conducted with "Ecomont" Piatra Neamt and attracted over 40 participants, including representatives of social and environmental NGOs. Dan Petrescu, opened the seminar with overview presentations on the work of CENTRAS and the role of NGOs in society. Mr. Petrescu then led the eager participants through a leadership exercise designed to assist the participants in recognizing the strengths and weaknesses in their organizations. After lunch, Cornel Trasnea, President of Pro-Democracy, Bucharest, gave a presentation on how to recruit and motivate volunteers. The first day ended with an overview of the main funding organizations operating in Romania, given by Dan Petrescu.

Most of the second day was spent in discussions and exercises designed to improve the participant's proposal writing capabilities. Jeff Hartshorn started the day with a presentation focusing on successful proposal writing techniques. This was followed by an exercise designed to organize and help clarify the thoughts and narrative presentations of the participants in each of the main parts of a proposal. Viorel Micescu, then Senior Programs Coordinator of CENTRAS, led the group through a detailed presentation on creating proposal budgets. The participants were given time to organize their materials and, in the afternoon, present their work. Mr. Petrescu led the group through this process and then concluded the seminar.

8. Tulcea Seminar, January 1997

On January 31, a CENTRAS team consisting of Dana Stanciu and Jeff Hartshorn, joined by Ioana Luca of the Regional Environmental Center and Ion Olteanu of Pal-Tin Project traveled to Tulcea for a one day mini seminar focused on proposal writing. The seminar was promised to the NGOs from Tulcea during the September seminar due to popular demand. The team made presentations on successful proposal writing techniques and the specific requirements of funding organizations. The participants were taken through the process of starting with an idea and developing it into a full proposal in the day's exercises. The session was well attended, with 30 people, and the participants were active.

9. The Ramnicu Valcea Seminar, February 1997

CENTRAS organized and conducted a Civil Society Development seminar in Ramnicu Valcea on 21-22 February with Pro-Democracy Association - Ramnicu Valcea. Dan Petrescu opened the seminar with an overview presentation on the work of CENTRAS and the role of NGOs in society. Next, Viorel Micescu described the fiscal regulations for NGOs which was followed by a short break. Mr. Petrescu then led a session on strategic planning and project planning after which Mr. Micescu continued with the project planning theme focusing on budget preparation. Mr. Petrescu summarized the main funding organizations operating in Romania and Jeff Hartshorn described successful proposal writing techniques. The morning of the second day was spent in a proposal writing exercise, including an opportunity for presentation and evaluation. Dan Petrescu led the group through a discussion on CENTRAS' proposed changes in the Law on Sponsorship and then concluded the seminar.

10. Satu Mare Seminar, March 1997

CENTRAS organized a "Civil Society Development" seminar on 14-15 March in Satu Mare, with Liga Pro Europa - Satu Mare. Dan Petrescu opened the seminar with an explanation of CENTRAS' work and background. Luminita Petrescu, Advisor to the President on NGOs, then conducted an exercise focused on leadership. Following this, Dana Niculescu of Opportunity Associates led the group through a segment on project management. After lunch, Mr. Petrescu continued the well-attended (about 35 people) seminar with a detailed exercise in strategic planning. The second day of the seminar began with a presentation on funding organizations operating in Romania, by Dan Petrescu. Afterwards, Jeff Hartshorn and Viorel Micescu conducted a presentation on successful proposal writing, including budgeting. Dana Stanciu then organized the participants into groups and worked with them on proposal ideas as a prelude to a thorough proposal writing exercise. At the end

of the day, the participants had written "mock" proposals and presented them to the group for analysis. Overall, the seminar was very successful, effective, and based on the participant evaluations highly valued.

Overview of the Seminars

The evaluation forms indicated a good overall appreciation of all the seminars: 80% "very good" while the rest rated them "good". Comments indicated a desire for follow-up seminars and continuous activity of this kind. In several cases, CENTRAS was asked to come back for training sessions.

Generally, the press coverage of the seminars was excellent. Local newspapers ran articles and photos on the seminars and several TV interviews with the organizers and lecturers were played on local TV stations.

D. WORKGROUPS

CENTRAS has consistently worked to improve the regulatory framework governing the NGO community through working groups of specialists that study issues and present possible legislative alternatives to lawmakers.

► *The Workgroup on the NGO Law*

Following the 1995 NGO Forum, the first working group was formed to examine the Law on Associations and Foundations, 21/1924. The working group's proposed amendments gained broad support from the NGO community through a series of public meetings and were submitted to Parliament in March 1996. Because the draft wasn't discussed in Parliament until the end of the 1992 - 1996 legislature and the procedure required that a law has to be submitted again at the beginning of a new legislature, the drafters met again in February 1997. They decided to draft a new law instead of resubmitting the proposal to amend the old one. At the end of March 1997, the first meeting of this workgroup took place.

► *The Workgroup on the Sponsorship Law*

Following the 1996 Forum, a working group was formed to examine the Sponsorship Law, 32/1994. Since October 1996, the members of the workgroup met several times and for amending the law in order to introduce provisions which will encourage the private sector to sponsor the non-profit sector. The final draft was presented on the first day of the NGO Fair which took place at the end of February. For this occasion, CENTRAS invited interested NGOs and representatives of the Government to debate the amended Sponsorship Law which was also published in the March issue

of *InfoONG* magazine. The draft obtained the support of a significant number of NGOs and was submitted to Parliament at the end of March 1997.

E. INFOONG MAGAZINE

The CENTRAS bi-monthly NGO magazine, *InfoONG*, continued to be published, describing present and future projects of public-policy oriented NGOs, examining legal and administrative difficulties as well as potential opportunities for Romanian NGOs in an effort to fill the information gap and enlarge channels of communication with government institutions. The magazine had a circulation of about 2,000 and it was distributed to NGOs, Parliament, and central/local government institutions. Following the dissemination of the first six issues, the feed-back showed that *InfoONG* has had considerable impact.

Beginning with the January - February 1997 issue, *InfoONG* updated its look. The cover of the magazine was printed in color and the circulation increased to 2,500. The *InfoONG* No1/1997 was presented at the NGO Fair where it was very well received by the public. Beginning with the March 1997 issue, the magazine became a monthly publication.

F. CENTRAS PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING COURSES

During this period CENTRAS staff was frequently invited to seminars, conferences, and other events organized in Romania and abroad, including Moldova, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic. Dana Stanciu attended a 3-day seminar in Chisinau, Moldova, which examined and discussed legislation on NGOs in the country. Viorel Micescu attended the Czech National Forum, organized by the Institute for East-West Studies. Following his attendance and several rounds of discussions, the Institute invited CENTRAS to work on a similar project in Romania. Dan Petrescu attended a seminar in the Slovak Republic organized by Aspen Institute-France, on the public policy activities of NGO Resource Centers.

CENTRAS staff also attended training courses on: strategic planning, organized by European Foundation Center in Warsaw; marketing for NGOs, organized by World Learning in Herçulane; public participation, a "training of trainers" seminar organized by Regional Environmental Center in Ploiesti; and strategic media planing, organized by National Forum Foundation in Budapest. Since October 1996, all staff members have attended courses in management at Open University, UK.

During November and December 1996, both Romania and Moldova had parliamentary and

presidential elections. CENTRAS staff participated as observers during all stages of the elections. In both countries, monitoring polling and counting on election day and the run-up to the election.

VI. CENTRAS: MISSION AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES

A. MISSION

The mission of CENTRAS is to contribute to the establishment of a democratic Romania through the development of a viable civil society. A developed and active civil society serves as an important deterrence against the return to a state controlled economy and an autocratic form of government as well as facilitates a decentralized distribution of power.

In order to accomplish its mission, CENTRAS:

- fosters and assists emerging NGOs, analyzing their needs;
- educates leaders and decision-makers in public administration on civil society issues;
- advocates changes in public policy according to the needs perceived; and
- contributes to the civic and democratic education of the general public.

In order to achieve its objectives, CENTRAS has employed a variety of methods. Most of them represent a continuation and intensification of the 3 year project run in Romania by IFES with a grant from USAID. The most important activities have included:

► *NGO Forums*

These events facilitated the development of a coherent strategy by a broad coalition of NGOs involved in public policy. This was achieved by setting common goals and policies reached through deliberation. CENTRAS followed-up and will continue to do so by advocating and working towards accomplishing those goals.

► *Legislative Working Groups*

A number of laws concerning elections as well as the Law on Associations and Foundations have been analyzed and amended. These draft laws have all been accepted and submitted to the Parliament and are at present under their consideration. The drafting has always been done by a representative group reuniting NGO leaders from relevant fields, expert lawyers, government officers, and parliamentarians from across the political spectrum. At the end of the drafting process, the results are presented for comments to large groups of NGO representatives, ensuring as much as possible a transparent process and public participation.

► ***InfoONG***

The magazine has succeeded beyond expectations, filling a void and becoming a highly desired tool for the dissemination of information. Recently, the magazine went beyond its strictly informative approach into some opinion and advocacy pieces. The audience is made of : 1,200 active NGOs, all parliamentarians, mayors of large towns and prefects and government ministries, among others. The responsiveness of the audience was tested after the third issue by a demand to return, by post, a form to receive the magazine. There was a 95% positive response.

► ***Government Relationships***

Throughout its existence, CENTRAS tried to make government decision-makers aware of its activity and invited them to join in their endeavors. It is only recently though that the government officials have started to respond and demand for CENTRAS input into their policy studies or legislative initiatives. CENTRAS has consequently been invited several times to join the meetings of the Interdepartmental Task Group for Civil Society Development, present comments and observations on government policy or legislative documents. In response, CENTRAS has managed to get relevant civil servants invited to conferences, meetings with NGO leaders and other events. More recently, following the November 1996 elections, CENTRAS has been asked to present a paper on ideas to implement an institutional interface between the NGOs and the Presidency.

► ***Civil Society Development Seminars***

CENTRAS is conscious that its main strength lies in its close contacts with NGOs and administration in the countryside. It is during these seminars that ideas such as decentralization, public participation, and citizen involvement in local issues are presented in a familiar environment, allowing for public advocacy at the local level. These seminars provide an opportunity for enlarging the database on NGOs which CENTRAS uses in its current activities.

► ***Technical Assistance Activities***

These activities help build the general ethos and facilitate coordination among NGOs while promoting the cause of civil society.

B. PUBLIC POLICY GOALS

Following the 1996 NGO Forum, participating NGOs charged CENTRAS with the following public policy goals:

- Changing the Sponsorship Law
- Passing a Freedom of Information Act

- Changing the Law on Associations and Foundations

Also, a permanent goal of CENTRAS has been establishing a regular channel of communication between public authorities and the NGO sector as a step toward self-sustainability.

1. The Sponsorship Law

The first objective, amending the Sponsorship Law, is widely believed to be “the key” to the development of the Romanian civil society. While this is only partially true, more encouraging legislation can favor funding activities, especially if the “Rules of Application” are modified. These modifications are intended to have several effects: a practical one, in easing the bureaucratic and fiscal regulations concerning funding; an educational role in introducing the concept of sponsorship and providing a base to inform the corporate world on philanthropic activities; and a psychological role in showing both NGOs and private corporations that the law has been changed and that this activity is being encouraged and facilitated.

The first draft of the law was written during Petre Roman’s term as Prime Minister but it was examined and passed much later. The current draft was inspired by French legislation but included a very small portion of a very elaborate piece of legislation. This draft, not very good in its initial form was further severely amended by the Finance Ministry and in the commissions so as to make it very difficult to use. The “Rules of Application” handed down by the Ministry of Finance made it even more discouraging.

In order to successfully amend the draft, after having obtained the acceptance and suggestions of several ministries,⁵ it will have to pass through the commissions of either the Senate and House.⁶ The final version will go to the floor, to be sent later to the next house for a vote. A mediated version of the draft will finally be voted on in both houses and sent to the President for signature.

2. The Freedom of Information Act

The main problem in accessing information is the regulatory framework. Article 37 of the Constitution, guarantees access to public information but there is a lack of regulations which would

⁵ Budget, Finance, Culture, Reform, Sports and Youth Ministries

⁶ Finance, Judicial, Culture and Mass Media Commissions

define the notion of "public information" and regulate the activities of public servants in presenting the information.

The responsible decision-makers and the passage of the legislation is similar to the scenario of the Sponsorship Law. There are, however, differences in the ministries and commissions that will be consulted and will decide on the matters. In this instance, the Ministries of Defense, Justice, Interior, the Intelligence Services and the corresponding commissions of the Parliament will be affected.

3. Legislation on Associations and Foundations

Law 21/1924 has been a highly debated topic which resulted in the submission to Parliament of progressive amendments to the law. The draft amendments must be either reintroduced or reexamined in Parliament, submitted and lobbied for. The passage of the legislation on Associations and Foundations is most likely now than at any previous time as the political forces are, at present, open to the passage of favorable legislation on this matter.

4. Government - NGO Interface

CENTRAS hopes to achieve within this broad objective by:

- contributing to a generally favorable image of NGOs in the public sphere, creating the trust necessary for further development of the sector; and
- sending a targeted message to specific public actors who can become activists on behalf of public policy NGOs.

By providing this service to the government, CENTRAS hopes it will become a useful tool and encourage government support of the NGO sector.

C. MAJOR PROGRAM INITIATIVES

1. Advocacy: Developing Legislative Working Groups and Papers

Experience shows that an acceptable draft is a compromise between several forces. In establishing a working group, CENTRAS tries to bring together representatives of these diverse forces. The process of working together, after an initial introductory period, makes the participants more willing to share ideas and reach a final, acceptable conclusion. To a certain degree, the process tries to

replicate, on a small scale, the debate that is found in a representative legislative body.

For example, the composition of the Sponsorship Law working group joins representatives of the donors (Bancorex), controllers (Ministry of Finance), receivers (Uniter), as well as lawyers and policy analysts familiar with the drafting process. Unfortunately, most of these participants must come in a private capacity, as their respective institutions frown on such activities. Also, most of them consider themselves specialists, not volunteers, and expect to be paid a certain fee for their time. Important roles are that of chairman, who has to "keep the peace" and steer the discussion in the right direction, and that of the secretary who tapes the proceedings, records the decisions made, informs all members of the group on schedules, presents abstracts, presents and edits the work done, copies and distributes materials and reference documents, and takes care of the logistics. At CENTRAS, the secretary of the group is also the Program Officer managing the project.

After finalizing the draft, CENTRAS holds seminars and public meetings to present it and the problem to NGOs, the media and MPs. A targeted approach is attempted in order to convince parliamentarians of the importance of the bill, using influential NGOs (members of the NGO Forum) in their constituencies. *InfoONG* runs articles presenting the positions of those legislators and political players favoring and opposed to the bill.

a. The Freedom of Information Legislation

Both because of the rather unique nature of the legislation and the lack of sufficient funds, another approach has been taken in this project. Relevant Ministries and institutions have been approached, presented with the resolutions and lists of signatures from the NGO Forum and asked to appoint a contact person on this matter. After periods lasting between one and three months, all the institutions finally answered and appointed a contact person. At that point, due to the tense and uncertain political situation as well as the lack of funding, the advocacy process was put on hold. The research and drafting has continued by CENTRAS and the Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania-Helsinki Commission (APADOR-CH) and an initial draft has already been written.

The plan for this project is to present the draft for comments and discussions during a workshop designed to educate government institutions on international standards and other relevant legislation on the matter.

b. Legislation for Associations and Foundations

A group of individuals and organizations affected by the legislation⁷ examined the situation and decided to draft an entirely new law instead of resubmitting the old amendments. The new law was produced in 3 months by a team of legislative experts from NGOs, Parliament and the government and was published in *InfoONG* and debated during the 1997 NGO Forum. It will be submitted to Parliament either as an initiative by particular MPs or the government.⁸ The expected period for debate in Parliament is Spring 1998.

2. InfoONG

After one year of publishing the magazine, it is not exaggeration to say that *InfoONG* is the most popular magazine in the Romanian NGO world and is becoming an increasingly proactive and informative instrument. CENTRAS intends to develop this project, by shifting the focus from general information about NGOs to policies and relevant opinions about the NGO sector.

The current structure of the magazine includes:

- projects and programs of NGOs, especially those which are public-policy oriented;
- drafts of proposed legislation, soliciting feedback from NGOs;
- positions of political parties, individual parliamentary groups and influential politicians on various proposed legislation;
- updates on the status of different pieces of legislation, targeting members of Parliament significant to the advancement of different policy issues;
- proposed projects, including partnership proposals;
- funding activities, notices and guidelines from different funding organizations, and requests for applications;
- notices and announcements on scheduled events;
- opinions on civil society in Romania;
- inquiries regarding the relationship between NGOs and local administration and the efficiency of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of projects;
- information on the activity of working groups drafting improved laws which affect the various

⁷ CENTRAS, APADOR-CH, members of the working group, public authorities, and NGO leaders

⁸ This was the text for study.

- activity fields of concern to Romanian NGOs;
- information regarding the activity of NGOs from abroad and international partnership proposals; and
- 2-3 pages of advertising which contain useful information for NGOs, including office suppliers, training opportunities, etc. Advertising contributes partially to the self-sustainability of the magazine.

The magazine is distributed to NGOs, Parliament, and central and local government institutes.

The magazine is directed by an editorial board made of CENTRAS board members, the Executive Director of the Foundation and a program coordinator also from the CENTRAS staff.

The staff working on the magazine is composed of:

- project coordinator
- chief-editor
- editor for domestic news
- editor for international news
- editor for inquiries
- researcher
- desktop-publisher
- photographer
- chief of advertising
- occasionally, collaborators from different parts of the country

3. The NGO Forum

Based on the success of the 1996 Forum, the 1997 Romanian NGO Forum was planned and executed along the following lines:

► **A Coordinating Committee** was created to establish the policy of the Forum. Other responsibilities include:

1. selection of the researchers to develop the white papers for each sector
2. decision on the structure of the white papers
3. final decision on the list of participants
4. supervision of logistics

5. determination of the Forum's agenda

► **White papers** are developed as research studies on each of the sectors within the NGO community. Topics addressed in 1996 included: stages of development, trends, most active organizations, obstacles in the NGO activity within the respective fields, legal initiatives, and the level of cooperation with the state institutions and local administration in implementing NGO projects.

► A **3-day conference** is held which includes a series of workshops, one for each sector. Topics included: debates on the draft white papers and legislative initiatives; and debates on the proposed resolutions and their formulation. Plenary sessions were dedicated to: the analysis of the accomplishments of the previous year's resolutions; analysis of the feedback from legislative proposals; new issues of interest to the NGO community as a whole; presentation of the funding organizations active in Romania; presentation of the main international NGO networks; debates on and adoption of the resolutions prepared in the workshops; and dialogue with representatives of state institutions and local administration on policies relevant to the NGO community. A daily bulletin was edited and distributed to the participants and the journalists attending daily press conferences.

► The **Forum booklet** consisted of a collection of the white papers developed with the contribution of participant NGOs, the resolutions adopted by the Forum and other relevant documents provided by national and international experts. The booklets were distributed to members of Parliament, Government Ministries, local public administration, mass-media, funders, national and international NGOs.

4. **The Resource Center Network⁹**

A limited number of large, professional NGOs have sprung up during the last 12-18 months, some of which exist to provide services to other NGOs. These organizations are located in Bucharest and one or two other large towns. A huge number of small organizations, over 13,000, have incorporated and are functioning now all over the country. Due to poor distribution mechanisms on behalf of the service providers, they have many needs ranging from basic to more advanced. CENTRAS seeks to enhance its distribution mechanisms in order to use its resources in a more efficient and extensive manner.

⁹ As of the writing of this final project report, the CENTRAS Resource Center Network is in early stages of development.

CENTRAS provides the leadership, managerial assistance, and informational resources to NGOs throughout the country through partner organizations which will become a network of resource centers. The network is currently in its initial stages and is expected to be developed based on the following model and considerations.

a. Initial Objectives

The initial objective during the first period of the project will be devoted to the creation and strengthening of the network by:

- ▶ strengthening the ties between the first 10 partner organizations beyond the present agreements and letters of commitment by establishing communication protocols, organizing meetings, and teaching the operating procedures of CENTRAS;
- ▶ establishing, through a common decision making process, the necessary equipment, training skills and documents necessary for the assistance activity;
- ▶ establishing the array of assistance services and information the partners will offer and provide to local organizations; and
- ▶ revising communication procedures and activities through a feed-back process during a three month period, in order to make adaptations and increase efficiency.

b. Operational Objectives

The operational objective are:

- ▶ Within their operating areas, the partners will proactively identify "client organizations," promising NGOs in the civics, human rights, media, ecological, youth, economic development, social and cultural fields. If absent, the partners will help organize them through public meetings, civic education seminars, and other activities.
- ▶ The identified NGOs will, individually or collectively, be assisted in developing and managing projects through training seminars in a manner that will make them self-sustainable within a reasonable period of time.
- ▶ As a logical extension, through research, assistance, and networking activities, CENTRAS

will serve as a clearinghouse and facilitator between NGOs and funding organizations and/or authorities, until they are sufficiently developed.

- ▶ Being intensely involved in the needs and development of local NGOs, CENTRAS will advocate for a favorable regulatory environment and will monitor and spread relevant information regarding the sector through its publications.

c. Expected Outcomes

- ▶ The creation of an operational network of 11 organizations (CENTRAS and its 10 partners) capable of providing current information immediately and specialized or researched information within a reasonable time.
- ▶ Within six months the structure will be fully operational with at least one training seminar held per month.
- ▶ Within a year, each partner will have assisted between 10 and 30 organizations. Overall, the network would be capable of assisting up to 400 other organizations.
- ▶ All of these organizations will be updated and informed on current national and international events in the NGO world and relevant legislation through *InfoONG*, mailings, and other information sources.
- ▶ Due to the advocacy efforts of CENTRAS and other NGOs, the regulatory framework for NGOs will be changed and updated in order to promote the growth and strengthening of civil society.

d. Partner Organizations

Following an internal analysis of the organizations with which CENTRAS has collaborated, 14 organizations were selected to form the network. Of the 14 approached with the proposal of the network, 12 agreed to form the network. At present, other organizations have asked to join the network. The expansion of the network will depend on available resources and the following criteria which will be used for selection:

- geographic distribution;
- a record of achievement due to managerial capacity and energy;
- a generosity and community orientation which forms an attitude central to the culture of an

assistance and resource organization.

The organizations in the network have varying degrees of experience, equipment and other attributes. It will be CENTRAS' responsibility to bring the partner organizations to the standard at which they can communicate with the network.

The partner organizations are:

Semper Virent, Pitesti
Rhododendron, Tg. Mures
Prietenii Pamantului, Galati
APTRF, Tulcea
Ecomont, Piatra Neamt
ProDemocratia, Rm. Valcea
Civitas, Cluj
Mare Nostrum, Constanta
ProDemocratia, Alexandria
Liga ProEuropa, Satu Mare

e. Activities of the Network

The activities of the selected partner organizations will be:

- The identification of NGOs which may benefit from assistance and the evaluation of the type of assistance required;
- In collaboration with CENTRAS, to establish the activities needed and provide the institutional background and logistics necessary to provide the assistance, i.e. training facilities, office equipment, etc;
- To ensure the communication of requests and offer information such as catalogues, magazines or specific funders etc;
- To allow, according to ability, access to equipment for emerging NGOs.

In order to conduct these activities, the partner NGOs will identify personnel willing to undertake this type of activity. These assistants will undergo stages of training in Bucharest, at the CENTRAS office. Following this training, they will be hired as part-time staff by CENTRAS. They will present

weekly activity reports based on which their performance will be evaluated.

CENTRAS will train the partners in the use of its databases, both the documents (library and articles) as well as the NGOs and participants. These will be updated periodically and it is hoped that the library will be solicited and the information will be made available by downloading through the E-mail network, mailings and other distribution sources.

CENTRAS on-line Internet access, still very expensive and barely available except in very large cities, will allow later forwarding of the relevant information as the network develops.

The expertise CENTRAS has acquired as a leading NGO, can be shared during training sessions of 1 - 3 days or short, small and intensive group sessions, allowing a high flexibility and adaptability for assistance. In the event that demand surpasses the staff's abilities and time resources, CENTRAS will call on other organizations like Opportunity Associates, a management training company with vast experience in managerial training, especially of social services organizations or CODECS.

5. The Resource Center

The NGO Resource Center is a heavily used resource for Romanian NGOs lacking access to books, publications, and information on funding opportunities, current legislation, and NGOs in general. The Center currently houses over 450 books, and hundreds of publications not readily available to representatives of many NGOs in Romania. In the last year alone, CENTRAS has added more than 200 new titles. Approximately 80% of the materials currently found in the Resource Center were donated by IFES.

Since September 1995, over 300 NGOs have used the Resource Center facilities. The Center provided, free of charge, advice and consultative services on the following problem areas for NGOs: proposal writing, fundraising, and funding opportunities; finding similar organizations for cooperation and collaboration on joint projects; legal and financial regulations for NGOs and their registration; drafting and preparation of narrative and financial reports for funders and other materials in Romanian, English, and French; and consulting for logistical arrangements and management of seminars.

6. Technical Assistance to NGOs

Other activities, either new or traditional form the "backbone" of CENTRAS. Although basically the same, these activities have developed and diversified as different needs and approaches have

been determined. The essence of the assistance activity CENTRAS does and intends to develop is based on the culture and goals created from the beginning of this organization's existence. It has always been CENTRAS' concern to do what it was asked to by nascent NGOs, in terms of assistance, or find solutions if the request was within its guidelines and resources. This culture has earned CENTRAS a certain respect, reflected by the large number of letters of appreciation received from NGOs as well as from government and executive offices.

a. Policy Formulation and Planning

Too often, criticism of government activities by NGOs is hasty, and even when not, it rarely embraces constructive and creative forms which can lead to effective results. CENTRAS staff, through the experience and training received is capable of helping local NGOs formulate realistic, coherent alternative policies for their communities. Specifically, these take place through informal meetings at CENTRAS and have resulted in developing joint ideas and activity plans. This activity will be further developed to encompass the new NGOs, in a manner designed to promote cooperation among organizations having similar goals and presenting common grievances.

b. Communication Facilities

CENTRAS, through its very good communications facilities¹⁰ is now able to access the Internet. Many NGOs use these CENTRAS facilities, as communication costs are very high and many NGOs lack the necessary equipment. The fax number and e-mail address will be used as an official "P.O. Box". The Internet access will be extensively used to obtain and reuse international information for the network and for the magazine, *InfoONG*.

c. Editing and Printing Facilities

Most out-of-town, emerging NGOs lack such facilities and even a typewriter is sometimes difficult to find. Often, CENTRAS has helped write, edit, print and copy agendas, invitations and other materials for NGOs organizing a seminar or a mailing. CENTRAS equipment has allowed it to carry a large amount of data as well as to edit and print documents. Computers can be made available for use within the office. This service is in growing demand and importance as most funders and agencies now refuse to take hand-written applications into consideration.

¹⁰ Including 4 international phone lines with 90% of connections local, fax machines and e-mail.

d. Assistance in Funding

This is one of the most important activities of CENTRAS. There is a long record of identifying funding organizations for different projects and organizations, helping with proposal writing and budgeting, assisting in the financial procedures and training in financial or narrative reporting requirements for the funding organizations, i.e. National Endowment for Democracy, PHARE - Democracy, Westminster Foundation, and the Democracy Network. This match-making activity has grown increasingly as more and more funding sources, domestic and foreign, commence activities in Romania.

e. Training

Lately, this activity has taken more and more of CENTRAS' resources, as the demand has continued to grow. The demand has been mostly on idea development, project management, proposal writing, human resources, especially on recruiting and motivating volunteers and communications skills. As curricula continue to become more sophisticated, CENTRAS will introduce subjects on evaluation techniques and use.¹¹

The form of training takes is highly varied. Increasingly, CENTRAS uses seminars lasting 2 days with 15 - 25 participants which allows for a very good and interactive environment. The follow-up to these seminars is either another shorter meeting or sending, by mail, feed-back on the participant's papers.

Also, based on needs, one or more staff members conducts the necessary training of individuals or small groups (3-5) in the following areas: computer literacy and software, use of office equipment, financial reporting or fundraising.

f. Lending/Donating Materials

CENTRAS has a sufficient library which provides literature and periodicals on the non-profit sector, sociology, politics, resource materials on funding or non-profit management, civil-society, educational tapes among other items. The documents can be accessed and searched through a domain and key-word database which will be accessible to CENTRAS' partners. Upon request, CENTRAS can lend or copy VCR tapes or provide other educational materials, such as books, flip-charts etc.

¹¹ The value of evaluation, which is demanded by funders, is still not fully appreciated by most NGOs.

g. Providing Information

CENTRAS, throughout its three years of working with NGOs and relevant government officials, experts and parliamentarians, has developed an important database of over 2,000 names and 1,000 organizations, most of whom are involved in some way in public policy activity. It is CENTRAS' opinion and experience that personal contact and connections based on trust and recommendations are an important element in assistance activity.

h. Disseminating Information - *InfoONG*

InfoONG was created following the 1995 NGO Forum as a tool for the dissemination of information in an attempt to avoid duplication and foster synergy. As it turned out, the magazine succeeded beyond expectation, as it filled the void of a much-needed information source. Beginning with the most recent issue, the magazine went beyond its strict informative approach and ventured into some opinion and advocacy sections. The audience consists of: 1,028 active NGOs, all parliamentarians, mayors of large towns and prefects, and government ministries, among others. The responsiveness of the audience was tested following the distribution of the third issue by a request to return, by mail, a form in order to continue to receive the magazine. There was a 95% positive response.

i. Publishing

CENTRAS researches, translates, and/or writes booklets and leaflets which provide assistance to other NGOs in their activities. There are few or no materials on non-profit management, and fundraising and the resource center CENTRAS experience qualifies the organization to undertake this activity.

D. NEEDS ADDRESSED BY CENTRAS

Below are the results of an analysis of the behavior of NGOs which are active in the civic domain in Romania. This analysis was realized during the NGO Forum 1996 by the leaders of several strong civic organizations, and was further amended by CENTRAS staff.

1. Strengths



- ▶ civil society organizations are a response to the essential needs of a democratic society;
- ▶ they provide the conditions for informing and educating citizens;
- ▶ they allow the involvement of a great number of people in decision making;
- ▶ they facilitate dialogue between political structures;
- ▶ they promote democratic values; and
- ▶ they utilize large numbers of volunteers.

2. Weaknesses

- ▶ lack of managerial skills;
- ▶ problems regarding the internal democracy and internal communications within the organizations;
- ▶ lack of a clear boundaries with political structures;
- ▶ the tendency towards political partisan attitudes;
- ▶ the tendency to criticize excessively;
- ▶ lag between current actions and results;
- ▶ lack of will to cooperate with other organizations;
- ▶ the tendency to use foreign managerial methods without adaptation to local conditions; and
- ▶ the tendency to expand on a national scale without having the support of local resources;

3. Opportunities

- ▶ the positive attitude of the press;
- ▶ the possibility to instruct both public authorities and citizens; and
- ▶ the acceptance of civil society organizations as interlocutors, by both political parties and public authorities.

4. Threats

- ▶ monopolization, whether by the opposition or the leading party;
- ▶ the attitude of citizens who believe involvement to be a risky social behavior;
- ▶ oppressive legislation, limiting freedom of action; and
- ▶ lack of funds, limiting the effectiveness of organizations.

Following the analysis presented, other documents and interviews, as well as meetings of the Board of Directors of CENTRAS and the conclusions of an exercise in strategic planning conducted by CENTRAS, the following areas and needs established by CENTRAS.

- ▶ Organizations working in the social and cultural sectors should be CENTRAS' clients as much as other organizations, and CENTRAS should attend to their needs.
- ▶ The differences mentioned between NGOs (rural/urban, between regions) threaten to provoke a division which, if not attended to, will lead in time to an estrangement of these organizations from their very purpose - to serve the public. At the same time, in a largely rural country, such cleavages will prolong democratic development.
- ▶ Among the NGOs CENTRAS works with, generally there is an amazing lack of training or assistance. Generally, training was done in an inconsistent manner, primarily one to three day seminars with foreign trainers. Such training, even if relevant, could only cover a fairly limited number of people, generally English speaking, of which only a few could later translate the training into actual performance. More recently, the Civil Society Development Foundation and the SOROS Foundation have jointly funded a Development Center based and operating in Bucharest. The initiative, begun over two years ago, has started operating in 1996.
- ▶ A number of funding organizations started activities during 1996: Civil Society Development Program, funded by PHARE; Democracy Commission Small Grants Program and the Democracy Network Program, both funded by USAID; and the Fund for the Carpathian Euro-region, funded by the Institute for East-West Studies. With the aim of managing only the grant fund, their capacity to provide assistance will be limited. Discussions with representatives of these organizations lead to the conclusion that an activity of advising and assisting their future grantees will be most appreciated.
- ▶ Opportunities of extending assistance and providing information abound in this environment, but they are limited by the experience of the organizations and their available resources. As such, assistance is scarce.
- ▶ Again, information exists if one looks hard and conducts extensive research. The problem, similar to training, is to assist NGO leaders in how and where to get the relevant information they seek, and especially, how to use the information in the specific environment.¹²

¹² i.e. finding which law regulates NGOs and reading it will not give you the faintest idea on how to set about registering your NGO and can provoke a delay of months.

- The worst aspect, which CENTRAS will strive to redress through its new approach, is in fact information about and accessibility to the opportunities existing for NGOs.

In a country where information is difficult to penetrate, where people have an inherent distrust and lack of know-how, the personal approach and trust-building measures are the best ways to solve stalemate. For that very reason, CENTRAS believes local partners represent the best vehicle to provide assistance and information.

E. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND QUALIFICATIONS

The CENTER for Assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations is registered as a foundation according to Law 21 of 1924.

The founders are all leaders or well known civic activists working in the NGO or public policy sector or leading members of IFES, the founding organization of CENTRAS.

CENTRAS is governed by a Board of Directors chosen at the first General Assembly held in April 1995. The Board Members are:

Dorin Tudoran, President
Mircea Toma, Vice President
Richard W. Soudriette
Juliana Geran Pilon, Ph.D.
Ion Olteanu
Silviu Jecu, Esq.
Alexandru Tasnadi, Ph.D.

The executive branch, made up of 6 staff members and 5 part-time collaborators, are all excellent English speakers, university graduates or in their final year, possessing a broad range of expertise in NGO activity due to their 1-5 years in this field and the training received as IFES and CENTRAS staff, as well as to formal training covering a wide range of issues: public policy, management, philology, mathematics-electronics, computer science, journalism-public relations, accounting, geology, chemistry, and engineering. In order to enhance their training and their own ability to train, all staff members are undergoing training in management, including different aspects such as general introduction to financial management, business communication and public relations.

The CENTRAS organizational chart is a matrix structure, in which each of the 6 full-time employees

contributes a percentage of time to different programs according to needs, while being responsible for the overall development of one or more.

This team has been carefully selected and trained during the past years, mostly beginning as interns or volunteers and, at present, represents an expert team among NGOs.

VII. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK

Until now, CENTRAS has provided assistance upon request, in addition to identifying and assisting individual NGOs develop in low activity areas. The stage of development and our past experience suggests that a more efficient way to provide assistance is by establishing a network that will do the preliminary identification and logistics work in the field, allowing CENTRAS resources to concentrate on providing assistance and training. This activity will continue in parallel with on-site assistance.

B. RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY: NGOS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Research and advocacy activities are nothing new to CENTRAS and its staff. Below are listed activities to date:

1. NGO Forum

Since 1994, IFES and later CENTRAS have organized each year a conference reuniting many of the more active NGOs and opening dialogue with government decision-makers and parliamentarians. This event has also facilitated the development of a coherent strategy by a broad coalition of NGOs involved in public policy. This was achieved by setting common goals and policies reached through deliberation. CENTRAS followed-up and will continue to do so by advocating and working towards accomplishing those goals. For the 1997 NGO Forum, there was an increase in the number of grassroots organizations attending and of the officials and parliamentarians participating.

2. Legislative Working Groups

Since 1994, IFES/CENTRAS have embarked upon a series of legislative activities. A number of laws concerning elections as well as the Law on Associations and Foundations have been analyzed and amended. These draft laws have all been accepted and submitted to Parliament and are at present under consideration. The drafting has always been done by a representative group consisting of NGO leaders from relevant fields, expert lawyers, governmental officers, and parliamentarians from across the political spectrum. At the end of the drafting process, the results are presented for comments to large groups of NGO representatives, ensuring, as much as possible a transparent process and public participation and debate. At present, CENTRAS is constructing the next working



groups on the Freedom of Information Act and the NGO Law.

3. Government Relationships

Throughout its activity, IFES/CENTRAS have tried to make government leaders aware of their activities and invited them to join in their endeavors. It is only recently though that government officials have started to respond and request CENTRAS input into their policy studies or legislative initiatives. As a result, CENTRAS has been invited several times to join the meetings of the Interdepartmental Task Group for Civil Society Development, present comments and observations to governmental policy or legislative documents. In response, CENTRAS has managed to ensure the attendance and participation of relevant civil servants to conferences and meetings with NGO leaders.

4. Civil Society Development Seminars

CENTRAS is conscious that its main strength lies in its close contacts with NGOs and local administration in the countryside. It is during these seminars that ideas such as decentralization, public participation and citizen involvement in local issues are presented in a familiar environment, allowing for public advocacy at the local level. As mentioned above, more recently, CENTRAS has mixed these subjects with training subjects upon demand.

C. ENSURING SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

CENTRAS' role as an information center will continue and can be extended to serve as an intermediary with relevant public authorities. This activity may be initially as a clearinghouse of information, to lobbying on behalf of NGOs. In the near future CENTRAS hopes to become a think tank on civil society while at the same time continuing its assistance activity.

At present, CENTRAS has such pilot activities with the Local Administration of Sector 6 in Bucharest, and more recently the Romanian Presidency has asked CENTRAS to present ideas on local administration. The budget and legislation of state institution do not yet allow for subcontracting NGOs in this type of activity but that time is approaching. CENTRAS seeks to be able to provide this service on demand.

Other self sustaining efforts on different projects are:

- ▶ Making *InfoONG* a subscription only magazine within a year so as to cover most of the

expenses. This will depend on the overall sustainability of the sector as they become willing to pay for information.

- Making the NGO Forum open to paying participants so as to help cover costs. In the future, all participants will be expected to pay a share and to pay for the Forum booklet.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The following needs constitute the most important issues for the NGO sector in Romania today:

- ▶ Raising public awareness about the role of NGOs;
- ▶ Development of information and networking;
- ▶ Improvement of the legal and fiscal regulations;
- ▶ Enhancing managerial and marketing capacities of NGOs;
- ▶ Enhancing the sector's image in the media;
- ▶ Collaborating, while maintaining independence, with the local and central government; and
- ▶ Concentrating on achieving self-sustainability in the future through effective fundraising at the local level and volunteerism.

In order for the expanding and maturing civil society to be truly institutionalized and legitimized, it is necessary that these priorities be understood by both the NGO community and the public at large as well as government structures. NGOs must recognize their responsibility toward Romania's democratization as must the government accept their importance.

IX. ATTACHMENTS

IFES Civic Education Project, 1994-1996
Final Activity Report
November 1997

ATTACHMENT A
LIST OF RESOURCE CENTER MATERIALS



INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
35	Brian Harvey	Networking in Europe	NCVO
36	Edmund Morgan	The Birth of the Republic	Chicago Press
37	Louis Henkin	The International Bill of Rights	Columbia Press
38	Loren Lomasky	Persons, Rights and the Moral Community	Oxford
39	Alderman & Kennedy	The Bill of Rights in Action	Avon
40	Walter Boek	The Evolution of a Democracy	The College of Democracy
41	Church Forrester	God and Other Famous Liberals	Simon & Schuster
42	***	A Decade of Dedication	Helsinki Watch Report
43	Richard Hill	We Europeans	Europublications
44	Guy Goodwin-Gill	Free and Fair Elections	Inter Parliamentary Union
45	Robert Newland	Comparative Electoral Systems	Arthur McDougall
46	Giovanni Sartori	The Theory of Democracy Revisited	Chatham House
47	***	An Outline of American Economics	USIA
49	Forbes & Hayes	Voluntary but not Amateur	LVSC
50	IFES	Republic of Moldova Parliamentary Elections	
51	IFES	Elections in Russia: A Technical Assessment	
52	Cooper & Christie	Voter registration and the States	
177	IFES	Republic of Estonia. Election to the Parliament and President	
54	Council of Europe	Collection of the C.E. Relating the Equality between Woman and Man	
55	C.S.C.E.	Elections in Central and Eastern Europe	
56	Gabriel Andreescu	Legislatia in tranzitie	
57	Salamon & Anhaier	The Emerging Sector	John Hopkins
58	Walter Powell	The Nonprofit Sector	Yale
59	IFES	Guide to Election Administration in Central and Eastern Europe	IFES
153	National Election Office	Parliamentary Elections Hungary 1994 Round 1	
61	John Patrick	Ideas of the Founders on Constitutional Government	ERIC
63	Larry Garber	Guidelines for International Observing	IHRG
64	IFES	Conferencia Interamericana Sobre Sistemas Electorales	
65	Interparliamentary Union	Electoral Systems a World-Wide Comparative Study	
66	Interparliamentary union	Women and Political Power	
67	Interparliamentary Union	Parliaments World Directory 1994	
68	NDI & NRIIF	The June 1990 Elections in Bulgaria	
69	NDI & IRI	The October 13, 1991 Legislative and Municipal Elections, Bulgaria	

INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
70	Kakabadse & Ludlow & Vinnicombe	Working in Organizations	Penguin Books
71	T. A. Vadney	The World since 1945	Penguin Books
72	Stephen Kemp Bailey	Congress Makes a Law	Vintage Books
73	United Nations	A Compilation of International Instruments	UN Publications
74	European Cultural Foundation	Minorities in Politics - Cultural and Languages Rights	
75	Ormeneanu & Lungeanu	Dictionar incomplet al drepturilor omului	SIRDO
76	SIRDO	ABC-ul drepturilor omului	ROMFEL
77	Eleodor Focseneanu	Istoria constitutionala a Romaniei	Humanitas
78	Ion Vida	Puterea executiva si administratia publica	Monitorul Oficial
79	Douay & Jacob & Defrenne	Comunitatile locale in sistemul administrativ francez	Porto-Franco
80	Alexis de Tocqueville	Despre democratie in America	Humanitas
81	Chatelet & Pisier	Conceptiile politice ale secolului XX	Humanitas
82	K. A. Popper	Societatea deschisa si dusmanii ei	Humanitas
85	Julien Benda	Tradarea carturarilor	Humanitas
86	Alexandr Iakovlev	Ce vrem sa facem din Uniunea Sovietica	Humanitas
88	Doina Cornea	Libertate	Humanitas
89	Ihor Lemnij	Pasul si drumul	Humanitas
90	Vladimir Trebici	Genocid si demografie	Humanitas
91	A. Le Diberdier & N. Coste-Cerdan	Televiziunea	Humanitas
92	Ghita Ionescu	Investigarea comparativa a politicii comuniste	Humanitas
93	Vlad Georgescu	Politica si istorie	Humanitas
94	Vasili Grossman	Panta rhei	Humanitas
95	Mircea Cartarescu	Nostalgia	Humanitas
96	David Green	Reconstructia societatii civile in tarile postcomuniste	Liberty Institute
97	Henryk Kurta	Operatiunea Crom	Humanitas
98	Virgil Ierunca	Romaneste	Humanitas
99	Lev Sestov	Inceputuri si sfirsituri	European Institute
100	William Thackeray	Rebecca si Rowena	European Institute
101	Constantin Argetoianu	Pentru cei de maine I	Humanitas
102	Constantin Argetoianu	Pentru cei de maine II	Humanitas
103	Andrei Serbulescu	Monarhia de drept dialectic	Humanitas
104	Mircea Vulcanescu	Ultimul cuvint	Humanitas
105	Mircea Vulcanescu	Nae Ionescu asa cum l-am cunoscut	Humanitas

NRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
106	Alexandru Paleologu	Minunatele amintiri ale unui ambasador al golanilor	Humanitas
107	Jakub Karpinski	A.B.C.-ul democratiei	Humanitas
108	Gabriel Liiceanu	Apel catre lichele	Humanitas
109	Nicoleta Franck	O infringere in victorie	Humanitas
110	Petru Cretia	Oglinzile	Humanitas
111	Ioan Popa	Robi pe Uranus	Humanitas
112	Marin Tarangul	Intrarea in infinit sau dimensiunea Eminescu	Humanitas
114	Andrei Plesu	Jurnalul de la Tesani	Humanitas
115	Dogan & Pellasy	Cum sa comparam natiunile	Alternative
116	Nichita Danilov	Apocalipsa de carton	European Institute
117	Pavel Chihaia	Treptele nedesavirsirii	European Institute
118	Petru Comarnescu	Jurnal 1931-1937	European Institute
119	Arsavir Aterian	Privilegiati si napastuiti	European Institute
120	Boyer D'Argens	Teresa filozoafa	European Institute
121	Vasili Rozanov	Apocalipsa timpului nostru	European Institute
122	Hermann Keyserling	Analiza spectrala a Europei	European Institute
123	LADO	Consiliul Europei si apararea drepturilor omului	
124	Constantin Noica	Pagini despre sufletul romanesc	Humanitas
125	Alain Monchablon	Cartea cetateanului	Humanitas
126	Jeni Aterian	Jurnalul unei fiinte greu de multumit	Humanitas
127	Bowman & Kearney	State & Local Government	Houghton & Mifflin
128	***	Western Civilization	Houghton & Mifflin
129	Gitelson & Dudley & Dubnick	American Government	Houghton & Mifflin
130	Ryan & Cooper	Those Who Can, Teach	Houghton & Mifflin
131	Pride & Hughes & Kapoor	Business	Houghton & Mifflin
132	USIA	Scurta descriere a sistemului american de guvernament	
133	Janda & Berry & Goldman	The Challenge of Democracy	Houghton & Mifflin
134	Juliana Geran Pilon	The Bloody Flag	Transactions
135	***	Electoral Laws and Their Political Consequences	Aghaton Press
136	David Mathews	Politics for People	Illinois Press
48	Marvin Perry	Western Civilization	Houghton & Mifflin
137	L. Coanda, F. Curta	Mic dictionar de sociologie	ALL
138	US Department of State	Key Officers of Foreign Service Posts	US Government Printing Office

INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
139	Parlamentul Romaniei	Legislatia Romaniei IV	Monitorul Oficial
140	E. Zamfir, C. Zamfir	Tigani in ignorare si indiferenta	Alternative
141	Fundatia Soros	Catalogul ONG din Romania 1991-1992	
142	Juliana Pilon	Dincolo de cortina noptii	De Vest
143	Pauley & Riordan	Technical Report Writing Today	Houghton & Mifflin
144	***	Constitutiile Romaniei	Monitorul Oficial
145	Parlamentul Romaniei	Romanian Legislation - Political Elections / Legislation Roumaine - Elections Politique	Monitorul Oficial
146	Ernest Stern	Privatizarea si redresarea economica	IMAS
147	Kay Lawson	Omul si politica	IMAS
148	A. Bowman, R. Kearney	Conducere de stat si locala	IMAS
149	Pauley & Riordan	Limbajul modern al documentelor tehnice	IMAS
87	USIA	An Outline of American Government	
150	***	Sistemul electoral Roman	IRDO
151	***	Boletin Electoral Latinoamericano I	IIDH-CAPEL
152	***	Boletin Electoral Latinoamericano III	IIDH-CAPEL
154	National Election Office	Parliamentary Elections, Hungary 1994 Round 2	
155	National Election Office	Act no. 34 of 1989 on the Election of Members of Parliament	
156	National Election Office	Practical Information on the Elections (Selections)	
157	Enid Lakeman	Twelve Democracies-Electoral Systems in the European Community	Arthur McDougall Fund
158	Natiunile Unite	Conventia cu privire la drepturile copilului	UNICEF
159	UN Center for Human Rights	Methods of Combating Torture	
160	UN Center for Human Rights	Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	
161	Morton J. Frisch	The Hamilton-Madison-Jefferson Triangle	Ashland University
162	David Tucker	Hope to the World for All Future Time	Ashland University
163	Peter W. Schramm	Lessons of the Bush Defeat	Ashland University
164	Kirkland & Donahue & Shields	Ghid de organizare sindicala	De Vest
165	Kirkland & Donahue & Shields	Cum functioneaza un sindicat democratic	De Vest
166	Kirkland & Donahue & Shields	Privatizarea si sindicatele	De Vest
167	Kirkland & Donahue & Shields	Cum se negociaza contractul colectiv de munca	De Vest
168	Kirkland & Donahue & Shields	Cum sa conduci o adunare sindicala	De Vest
169	UN Center for Human Rights	The International Bill of Human Rights	
170	UN Center for Human Rights	Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights	
171	UN Center for Human Rights	World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights	

NRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
172	UN Center for Human Rights	The Rights of the Child	
173	UN Center for Human Rights	The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	
174	UN Center for Human Rights	Minority Rights	
175	Steve H. Hanke	Privatizare si dezvoltare economica	Expert
176	Liga Pro Europa	Sistemul elvetian	
53	IFES	Ukraine's New Parliament	
178	IFES	The Moldovan Parliamentary Elections	
179	IFES	Ukraine's Parliamentary Repeat Elections	
180	IFES	IFES Technical Election Assistance Project, Romania, March 1992	
181	Danish Assistance Team	Voter Registration System, Ghana	
182	Owen & Opolska	Le Re-Invention Democratique. Les Premieres Elections en Europe de l'Est	
183	Owen & Giroux	Considerations sur le Raport de la Commission de Reforme du Mode de Scrutin de F	
184	Owen & Opolska	La Loi Electorale d'URSS, 1re Decembre 1988	
185	John Courtney	Registering Voters	
186	IFES	Guide for the Examination of an Electoral System	
187	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden	Free and Fair Elections and Beyond	
188	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden	Free and Fair Elections and Beyond	
189	Interparliamentary Union	Electoral Systems, A World-Wide Comparative Study	
190	Interparliamentary Union	Parliamentary World Directory 1994	
191	Constantinescu & Iorgovan	Alegerile parlamentare si prezidentiale - Texte legale comentate	Monitorul Oficial
192	IFES	Conferencia Interamericana Sobre Sistemas Electorales, Caracas, Mayo 1990	
193	***	Minnesota Election Laws, 1991	
194	Dieter Nohlen	Elections and Electoral Systems	Friederich Ebert Stiftung
195	A. James Reichley	Elections American Style	Brookings Institution
24	Guy Goodwin-Gill	Elections Libres et Regulieres	Union Interparlamentaire
60	IFES	The IFES Civic Education Project in Romania, Phase One July 1992-April 30, 1993	IFES
83	Vernon Bogdanor	Proportional Representation: Which System	ERS
84	Michael Meadowcroft	The Politics of Electoral Reform	ERS
62	Elections Canada	Serving Democracy	
113	***	Fundamental Acts on Local Self-Government in Hungary	
196	Larry Garber	Guidelines for International Election Observing	IHLRG
197	Larry Garber	Pautas Para la Observacion Internacional de Elecciones	IHLRG
198	***	Breviar legislativ pentru intreprinzatori	Monitorul Oficial

INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
199***		Sistemul administratiei locale in Europa Centrala si de Est si in Comunitatea Statelor I	Open Society Institute
200	Walter W. Powell	The Nonprofit Sector	Yale University Press
201	Salamon & Anheier	The Emerging Sector	Institute for Policy Studies
202	Ewa Les	The Voluntary Sector in Post-Communist East Central Europe	Civicus
203***		A Guide to EC Funding for NGOs	ECAS
204***		Compendium of Operational Programmes 1993	PHARE
205***		International Guide to Funders Interestef in Central and Eastern Europe	EFC
206***		A Compendium of US Nonprofit Organizations Providing Voluntary Assistance to CEE	CDC
207***		Assistance to Romania - Activities of US Nonprofit Organizations	CDC
208***		Bulgarian Foundations National Directory	Union of Bulgarian Foundations
209***		Estonian Foundation Centre	
210***		The National Review College Guide	Wolgemuth & Hyatt
211***		Parlamentul Romaniei - Carte de telefon	IRI
212***		Lista Corpului Diplomatic	MAE
213	Fundatia Soros	Catalogul organizatiilor neguvernamentale din Romania 1994	Soros
214	Fundatia Soros	Non-Governmental Organizations' Directory Romania 1994	Soros
215	Elisabeta Rizea	Povestea Elisabetei Rizea din Nucsoara	Humanitas
216	Constantin Sanatescu	Jurnalul Generalului Sanatescu	Humanitas
217	Ralf Dahrendorf	Reflectii asupra revolutiei din Europa	Humanitas
218	Contele de Mirabeau	Erotika Biblion	Institutul European
219	John Redwood	Revolutiile democratice	Liberty Institute
220	Frances Emerson	Instructor's Manual - Technical Writing	Houghton & Mifflin
221	David L. Bender	What Are America's Religious Values	Greenhaven Press
222***		The Romanian Academy - 125 Years	Academiei Romane
223***		Constitutia Statelor Unite ale Americii	USIS
224***		The Merriam-Webster Dictionary	
225	Matthew Holtz	Mastering Ventura 3.0	Sybex
226	Alan Simpson	Mastering WordPerfect 5.1 for Dos	Sybex
227	Mark Brownstein/Dan Gutierrez	DBase IV/Beyond the Basics	Wiley
228	Gabriel Dima/Mihai Dima	Foxpro	Teora
229	Fundatia SOROS	Annual Report 1993	***
230	Rockefeller Foundation	Annual Report 1993	***
231	St.St.Cyril & Methodius Foundation	St. St. Cyril and Methodius International Foundation	***

INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
232	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	1993 Annual Report	***
233	Vic Guest / Joe Eshuys	You are a Citizen	Jacaranda Press
234	Council on Foundations	Evaluation for Foundations/Concepts, Cases, Guidelines and Resources	Jossey-Bass Publishers
235	A.S Hornby/Christina Ruse	Oxford Student's Dictionary	Oxford University Press
236	***	The Norton pcAnywhere/User's Guide	Symantec
237	Dan Somnea/Mihai Calciu	Excel 5.0 cu aplicatii in management	Tehnica
238	Pilat, Deaconu, Popa, Radu	Introducere in Internet	Teora
239	Florentina Hristea	Sistemul de programe Norton Commander	Tehnica
240	***	Bulletin Bob Jones University '94-'95	***
241	***	Annotated Bibliographical Survey/Clifton White Resource Center	***
242	Service des Affaires Europeennes	L'action Internationale des Fondations Politiques Allemandes et de leurs Homologues	***
243	Larry H. Slesinger	Self-Assessment for Nonprofit Governing Boards	***
244	Fondation de France	Droit et pratique des fondations au service de l'interet general	***
245	Commission of the European Communitie	Report from the Commission on Cooperation with European Development NGOs (199	***
246	Chris Marsden	Partnership: A Normal Part of Doing Business	University of Warwick
247	John A. Edie	Beyond our Borders/A Guide to Making Grants Outside the U.S.	Council on Foundations
248	European Foundation Centre	Orpheus Programme/Civil Society Mutual Support Project	***
249	Commission des Communautés Europeen	Annexes Statistique au Rapport de la Commission	***
250	Commission of the European Communitie	Community Structural Funds 1994-1999	***
251	Forbes, Hayes and Reason	Voluntary but not Amateur	***
252	Peter B. Bell	Fulfilling the Public Trust	***
253	Douglas C. Eadie	Beyond Strategic Planning	***
254	John Paul Dalsimer	Understanding Nonprofit Financial Statements: A Primer for Board Members	***
255	Dabney G. Park, Jr.	Strategic Planning and the Nonprofit Board	***
256	Rhododendron	Repertoar al Grupurilor Ecologice neguvernamentale din Romania	***
257	Varujan Vosganian	Jurnal de front	Staff
258	Frydman, Rapaczynsky, Earle	Procesul de privatizare in Europa Centrala	Staff
259	Peter Drucker, Ikuyo Kaneko	Crossover Between the Nonprofit and Business Sectors	PHP Editors
260	Commission des Communautés Europeen	Life	***
261	Ford Foundation	International Organizations and Law	***
262	Guilea, Constantinescu-Stefanel	Face-a-face en Affaires	***
263	Maurice Cronly	Croatia and its NGOs. Background, Problems and Needs	***
264	Geoff Mulgan and Charles Landry	The Future of Charities and Voluntary Organisations in the UK	DEMOS

INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
265	Geoff Mulgan and Charles Landry	Rethinking Charity Finance	DEMOS
266	***	Corporate Citizenship in the New Europe	EFC
267	***	Foundations for Europe: Funding for Solidarity	EFC
268	David Sharpe	A Portrait of Canada's Charities	Canadian Centre for Philanthro
269	***	Charitable Associations within the EC	European Council Commission
270	M. D. de Oliveira, R. Tandon	Citizens. Strengthening Global Civil Society	Civicus
271	Lydia van de Fliert	Indigenous Peoples and International Organisations	Spokesman
272	Carole Shelbourn George	International Charitable Giving: Laws and Taxation	Graham&Trotman / Nijhoff
273	Richard Armitage and Richard Macfarlane	Getting Going in Europe; A Guide to Developing Transnational Projects	NCVO Publications
274	***	Portuguese Foundations Guide	ORIENTE Foundation
275	David Fishel	The Arts Sponsorship Handbook	Directory of Social Change
276	Lucy Stubbs	The Third World Directory	Directory of Social Change
277	Michael Norton	Writing Better Fundraising Applications	Directory of Social Change
279	***	PHARE Infocontract no. 5, 1994	PHARE
280	***	Election Law Compendium of Central and Eastern Europe	IFES
281	Mariusz Misztal	Test Your Vocabulary	Teora
282	Allen L. Wyatt	Succes cu Internet	All Educational
283	Louis C. B. Hutten Mansfeld	Manual de aplicare in practica a unui program de protectie a mediului inconjurator	Sic Press & Design
284	A.J. Olenick & P. R. Olenick	A Nonprofit Organization Operating Manual; Planning for Survival and Growth	Foundation Center
285	Parlamentul Romaniei	Legislatie Financiara pina in iunie 1995	Monitorul Oficial
286	***	Ce stim si ce nu stim despre alegeri...	LADO
287	***	Tot ce voati sa stiti si nu v-ati gindit sa intrebati despre Parlamentul Romaniei	Pro Democratia
288	National Election Office	Acts of the Election of the Local Governments and Local Minority Self-Governments	
289	National Election Office	General Regulation of the Forming of the Minority National Self-Governments	
290	National Election Office	Practical Information on the Election (Selection)	
291	***	Romanian Ecological NGO Directory	
292	Ivor Porter	Operatiunea "Autonomous"	Humanitas
293	***	Tundmatu Eesti Vabariik	Jaan Tonissoni Instituut
294	Parlamentul Romaniei	Romanian Legislation/Legislation Roumaine; Labour and Social Protection/Travail et	Monitorul Oficial
295	Grigore Gafencu	Insemnari Politice	Humanitas
296	Konrad Sakowski	Secretele CEKA, NKVD, KGB	DAB Iasi
297	Paul hermant	Tous les Fleuves Vont a la Mer	Nevada/Nimifi
298	Maggie Pearse, Jerry Smith	Community Groups Handbook	Journeyman

NRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
299	Ulm Spineanu	Miine, Democratia crestina si viitorul Romaniei	ALL
300	Edwin Rekosh	In the Public Eye; Parliamentary Transparency in Europe and North America	Int'l Human Rights Law Group
301	Ian Smillie and Henny Helmich	Non-Governmental Organisations and Governments: Stakeholders for Development	OECD
302	Thomas Princen and Matthias Finger	Environmental NGOs in World Politics; Linking the Local and the Global	Routledge
303	John Farrington and Anthony Bebbington	Reluctant Partners? NGOs, the State and Sustainable Agricultural Development	Routledge
304	Arend Lijphart	Electoral Systems and Party Systems. A Study of Twenty-Seven Democracies, 1945-	Oxford University Press
305	Wilma Rule, Joseph F. Zimmerman	Electoral Systems in Comparative Perspective; Their Impact on Women and Minorities	Greenwood Press
306	Margaret Scammel	Designer Politics: How Elections Are Won	St. Martin's Press
307	Rein Mullerson	International Law, Rights and Politics	Routledge
308	Michel Rosenfeld	Constitutionalism, Identity, Difference and Legitimacy	Duke
309	Thomas Bridges	The Culture of Citizenship; Inventing Postmodern Civic Culture	University of New York Press
310	Sheila Albert	Hiring the Chief Executive - A Practical Guide to the Search and Selection Process	Nat Cent for Nonprofit Boards
311	***	Parliamentary Human Rights Bodies	Inter-Parliamentary Union
312	***	Women and Political Power	Inter-Parliamentary Union
313	***	Plan of Action to Correct Present Imbalances in the Participation of Men and Women in	Inter-Parliamentary Union
314	Jenny Hyatt	Calling in the Specialist; Using Consultancy Methods with Community Organisations	Community Development Found.
315	***	Assistance to Romania; Activities of US Nonprofit Organizations - Clearinghouse	Citizens Democracy Corps
316	R. Gutch, C. Kunz, K. Spencer	Partners or Agents?	NCVO
317	Terry Holcomb	Metode de conducere intr-o societate democratica	IFES
318	APADOR-CH	Aspecte privind evolutia situatiei drepturilor omului in Romania si activitatea APADOR	APADOR-CH
319	APADOR-CH	Aspecte teoretice si practice ale relatiei Politie-persoane fizice	APADOR-CH
320	***	Collection of the Council of Europe's Work Relating to Equality between Women and	Council of Europe
321	A. Hassing, J. Surina, M. Wigginton	Romania in the Wake of Ceausescu: An Assessment of the Romanian Electoral System	IFES
322	***	Ukraine's New Parliament; 338 of 450	IFES
323	***	The Plant Report; A Working Party on Electoral Reform	The Guardian
324	***	A Compilation of the Election Laws of the State of Florida; June 1993	FSASE
325	Chris Marsden	Partnership: A Normal Part of Doing Business	CEI Occasional Paper
326	Michele Archie	Framing Issues; Building a Structure for Public Discussions	Kettering Foundation
327	***	Together We Are Stronger; How to Build Successful Diabetes Association	Int'l Diabetes Federation
328	Ilse Tebbetts	Criminal Violence: What Direction Now for the War on Crime?	National Issues Forum Inst.
329	***	Creating Citizens Through Public Deliberation: Six International Case Studies	Kettering Foundation
330	***	Creating Citizens Through Public Deliberation: Eight International Case Studies II	Kettering Foundation
331	***	Human Rights and Democratization in Romania	CSCE

INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
332	***	Human Rights and Democratization in the Newly Independent States of the Former S	CSCE
333	***	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	ARIS
334	***	Europe's Environment; The Dobris Assessment	EEA Copenhagen
335	***	European Foundation Centre Profiles	EFC
336	***	Cultural Funding in Europe	EFC
337	Corneliu Leu	Democratia locala in Romania contemporana	Fundatia Grigorie Leu
338	***	Media and Elections	Europ. Instit. for the Media
339	***	Open Media Research Institute Specialist Directory	OMRI
340	***	Attacks on the Press in 1993-A Worldwide Survey	CPJ
341	***	A Media Guidebook for Women	USIA
342	***	Mainstreaming the Environment	World Bank
343	Vic Guest, Joe Eshuys	You Are a Citizen, Workbook 1	Jacaranda Press
344	Vic Guest, Joe Eshuys	You Are a Citizen, Workbook 2	Jacaranda Press
345	Everett Carll Ladd	The American Polity	Norton
346	Jon Pratt	State by State-An Organizing Manual for State Associations of Nonprofit Organization	Nat. Council of Nonprofits
347	***	Agenda consilierilor, primarilor si functionarilor din administratia publica locala	AMIVA
348	I. Alexandrescu, I. Bulei, I. Mamina sa	Enciclopedia partidelor politice din Romania (1862-1994)	Mediaprint
349	Richard T. Ingram	Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards	NCNB
350	Fisher Howe	Fund Raising and The Nonprofit Board Member	NCNB
351	Richard P. Chait	How to Help Your Gvern More and Manage Less	NCNB
352	***	Aspecte ale Finantarii ONG	ILGPS
353	Bob Reely, Ed.D	Assessing Twenty-First Century Christian Leadership	Harding University
354	***	European Address Book Against Racism - Edition 1996	UNITED
355	Peter A. Carmichael	Reasoning: A Text of Elementary Logic	Philosophical Library
356	Wallace J. Cambell	The History of CARE; A Personal Account	PRAEGER
357	R.Payton M.Novak B.O'Connell P.Dobkin	Philantropy Four Views	Transaction Books
358	***	The Power of Public Ideas	Harvard University Press
359	***	The Capitalist Spirit Toward a religious ethic of wealth creation	ICS Press
360	***	The Guardian Political Almanac 1993/1994	Fourth Estate
361	***	Uprooting Leninism, Cultivating Liberty	University Press of America
362	T. M. Magstadt; P. M. Schotten	Understanding Politics; Ideas, Institutions and Issues	St. Martin's Press
363	W. Welch	The Art of Political Thinking	Littlefield, Adams & Company
364	***	Select Legislative Texts and Commentaries on Central and East European Not-for-Pr	ICNL, EFC, UBF

INRE	NUME	TITLU	EDITURA
364	***	Legea Protectiei Mediului	Monitorul Oficial
365	Parlamentul Romaniei, Camera Deputatilo	Sisieme Electorale Contemporane	Monitorul Oficial

IFES Civic Education Project, 1994-1996
Final Activity Report
November 1997

ATTACHMENT B
NGO OUTREACH:
A SAMPLE COLLECTION OF LETTERS TO CENTRAS





Organizația Neguvernamentală de mediu
Environmental NonGovernmental Organisation

MARE NOSTRUM

r. Unirii 32-34, Hotel Unirii, 312,
Constanța 8700, Romania

tel: 41- 646841, Fax: 41- 692232 , E-mail: office@mnct.sbnet.ro

pentru: Dana Stanciu/ Viorel Miclescu, CENTRAS /
producătorii versiunilor finale ale Cărților Albe

REF: Raportul Final al Forumului ONG-urilor din România '96

Stimată doamnă/ stimată domnule,

Revin cu multe mulțumiri pentru invitația de participare la probabil cea mai "completă" ediție a Forumului ONG și cu o serie de aprecieri pozitive pentru toată echipa de organizare.

Sper că multe din rezoluțiile, "filtrate" de numeroasele personalități prezente, să ajungă la fel de ușor la o aplicare concretă în legislație și să sporească "normalitatea" noastră juridică.

În acord cu cele convenite cu d-nul Dan Stoica, în grupul de lucru al ONG-urilor de mediu vă trimit câteva grafice reprezentative privind rezultatele unor evaluări făcute cu ocazia Conferinței Naționale a ONG-urilor de mediu, Eforie Nord 1995.

Îmi cer multe scuze pentru întârzierea acestui mesaj !!

Cu sinceritate,

Lucian Ionescu, Director Executiv

FUNDAȚIA SOROS PENTRU O SOCIETATE DESCHISĂ - ROMÂNIA/
SOROS FOUNDATION FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY - ROMANIA

Domnului DAN PETRESCU
Director executiv
Centrul de Asistență pentru Organizații Neguvernamentale (CENTRAS)
București

30 septembrie 1996

Stimate domnule Petrescu,

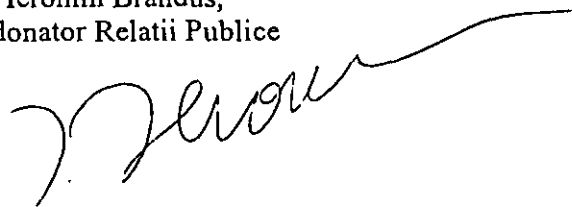
Doresc să vă felicit pe această cale pentru reușita seminarului Dezvoltarea Societății Civile susținut în municipiul Tulcea, în zilele de 26 și 27 septembrie a.c. și să exprim mulțumirile mele și ale SFOS pentru invitația de participare.

Așa cum a fost organizat, Seminarul a avut calitatea să informeze un public cit mai divers și o serie de ONG-uri și grupuri asupra varietății de finanțare accesibile în țara noastră - deci și în Tulcea. Pe bună dreptate, interesul față de acest eveniment a fost deosebit - numeric și calitativ. Deschiderea problematicei, așa cum ați gândit-o și felul în care ați condus lucrările au dovedit o experiență și flexibilitate remarcabile. Seminarul s-a bucurat de prezența autorităților reprezentative ale municipiului și a unor grupuri active ale societății civile în domeniul ecologic, medical, educativ, de construcție a democrației etc. Experiența noastră, a vorbitorilor, a fost deosebită, fiindcă în general societatea civilă din Tulcea, foarte activă, s-a organizat și a acționat în anii din urmă fără nici un sprijin din afara comunității lor și fără a cunoaște programele care i-ar putea ajuta. Eforturile lor ar putea avea o mult mai mare eficiență cu un sprijin relativ modest, material și de expertiză, din partea unor finanțatori ale caror programe corespund acțiunii forțelor locale de la Tulcea. În plus, sentimentul solidarității, implicit, ar constitui în sine un stimul de acțiune pentru acești promotori ai schimbării democratice.

Datorită inițiativei CENTRAS, aceste posibilități au fost puse în valoare într-un mod benefic pentru toți cei potențial implicați - și nu mai puțin pentru colaborarea cu SFOS.

Vă urăm mult succes în eforturile CENTRAS de sprijin pentru ONG-urile românești și vă asigurăm de colaborarea și stima noastră,

Ioana Ieronim Brandus,
Coordonator Relații Publice



AHNR
ASOCIATIA HANDICAPATILOR
NEUROMOTOR DIN ROMANIA

Sediul central: Str. TRIBUNUL DOBRA Nr.9
2900 ARAD
Adresa corespondenta: Str. SAVA TEKELIJA Nr.2
2900 ARAD
Telefon/Fax: 057 - 280 582
Telefon secretariat general: 057 - 244 021



Membre a FIMITIC (Fédération Internationale des Mutilés, des Invalides du Travail et des Invalides Civils)
a Mobility International
si a ALS/MND (International Alliance for People with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/ Motor Neuron Disease)

4049/22.11.1996.

CENTRAS.

În atenție Dnui Director executiv Dan Petrescu,

Stimate Doamne Petrescu,

Vă mulțumesc pentru Cartea Albă „Forumul ONG „dezvoltarea
societății Civile și pentru buletinul nr 5/1996 al ONG-urilor din România.
Aste publicatii sunt f. interesante pentru ONG-urile din România
și așea vă adresez rugămintea ca în limita posibilităților să
anunțati aceste buletine și asociațiilor membre ale AHNR
cărora lista și adrese vi le anexez.

Mulțumindu-vă anticipat, vă rog să primiți întreaga
ea consideratie.

Monica Antoci

Președinta A.H.N.R.

Antoci



at Reorganizat
1990

ASOCIAȚIA TRADIȚIONALĂ
„CERCETAȘII ROMÂNIEI”
CONSILIUL SUPERIOR

Sediul: București, strada Silfidelor nr. 4, apartament 7.

Cod postal: 70602 România

Telefoane: 6387792, 7603439, 6180574

p. 2/03.01.1995

Catre: ~~CASA~~ **CENTRAS**
Str. Franklin, 9
Ap. 8

Confirmam primirea setului de Carti Albe privind fondul
subiectelor discutate la Forumul ONG 1995, Brasov 30 apr. - 3 mai
1995.

Consideram de mare importanta activitatea desfasurata de IFES in
anii trecuti si speram intr-o strinsa colaborare cu ~~CASA~~ **CENTRAS**.

Cu deosebite multumiri,



Președintele Consiliului Superior

s. Anton

Prof. univ. ing. Anton CONSTANTINESCU



CHARITIES EVALUATION SERVICES

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LONDON EC1R 5HL

TEL: 0171 713 5722

E-MAIL: 100572.3175@COMPUSERVE.COM.

FAX: 0171 713 5692

Alexandru Savulescu
CENTRAS
str. Benjamin Franklin nr.9, et.4, ap.8
Sector 1 - 70149 Bucharest
Romania

21st November 1995

Dear Alexandru,

Thank you very much for meeting with us last week. It was very interesting hearing about the work of IFES and the development of CENTRAS. Your programme of work with the more isolated NGOs outside of Bucharest is fascinating and we are looking forward to hearing about its progress.

We found your comments about the Centre for NGO Development very helpful. It seems quite clear that there is a lot of scope for collaboration between the Centre and Centras. Hopefully, there can be some more discussion of this in the near future.

Please find enclosed a copy of the report we promised you. If there are any further materials or information we could provide on models of community development in the UK please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to meeting you again early next year.

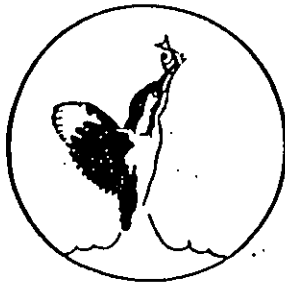
Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny

on behalf of

Libby Cooper, Jenny Hyatt, Barry Knight



SOCIETATEA ORNITOLOGICĂ ROMÂNĂ (S.O.R.)

Societate pentru studiul și protecția păsărilor și a mediului înconjurător
Society for the study and protection of birds and environment
Gesellschaft für Vogelkunde, Vogelschutz und Umweltschutz
Société pour l'étude et la protection des oiseaux et de l'environnement

3400 - CLUJ, Str. Republicii 48
Tel. 64.198084, 64.438086
Fax: 64.438086

Către
Centrul de Asistență pentru
Organizații Neguvernamentale CENTRAS
str. Franklin 9, ap:8
70149 București

1 aprilie 1996

Mulțumim pentru publicațiile editate de dumneavoastră:

1. "Romanian Non-governmental Organizations Forum" (1995)
2. "Infoproject" (1/1995)

Crymhylda Timoc
Secretară S.O.R.



Parlamentul României
Senat

Secretar

București .. 29.04.19 ..

Nr. VI/187 ..

Comitetului director al INFONG,

Grabindu-ma sa inapoiez completat "Formularul de confirmare", va multumesc cu gandul ca ceea ce faceti imi este mie foarte util.

Cu sinceritate,

Mihai Matetovici

ONG (infoONG)



Embasciata d'Italia
a Bucarest

793/20.6.96.

Bucuresti, 18 iunie 1996

Domnule Prezident,

urmare fax-ului dumneavoastra din 12 iunie 1996 prin care ma invitati sa particip la Forumul Organizatiilor Neguvernamentale Romane, din pacate trebuie sa va informez ca nu pot accepta amabila dumneavoastra invitatie datorita faptului ca sint deja angajat in unele activitati care se desfasoara tot in aceasta perioada.

Urindu-va mult succes in realizarea acestui Forum, va transmit cele mai distinse salutari.


(G. De Michelis di Slonghello)

Dl. Presedinte Dorin TUDORAN
CENTRAS
FAX 312.34.14



ECO - CONSEIL

"ECO - CONSEIL" ASSOCIATION BRASOV

Address: Barbu Lăutaru 11/27/C/5

Braşov RO-2200 România

Tel/Phone: 0040+68-189587

Fax: 0040+68-151153 ASCO for ECO

Account: Banca Română de Comerţ Exterior

Sucursala Braşov str. Armata Română 22

acc #: \$ 461018903000 Dollar USA

acc #: DM 461018903013 Deutsche Mark

CENTRAS

Dragi Colegi,

Face o mare plăcere să vă transmitem cele mai cordiale salutări.

Unele pliante și reviste am aflat căte ceva din activitățile organizatiei d-voastră, pentru care avem cele mai sincere aprecieri.

Vrea să vă informăm căte ceva despre org. "ECO-CONSEIL ASS": fixul "eco" parvine de la cuvântul "ecologie" care derivă din rădăcina greacă "oikos" care înseamnă casă (home), locuință, habitat. Conseil din limba franceză înseamnă consiliu. Traducerea corectă ar fi: Consiliul Ecologic sau Consiliul de Casă (planeta noastră fiind considerată la origine casa (habitatul) mulții). Dorința noastră este să transmitem planeta pământ în "casa ecologică".

ECO-CONSEIL ASS, subunitatea org. franceză cu același nume cu sediul la Paris (Franța) a avut drept scop inițial întărirea întregului proces de democratizare în România, sprijinind activitățile privitoare la: 1) problema mediului înconjurător; 2) stoparea poluării excesive prin utilizarea energiei poluante sau energiei care constituie un pericol pentru planeta noastră (energia nucleară atomică) cu noi energii mai puțin periculoase; 3) protejarea ariilor protejate prin acțiuni de amenajare și reamenajare (Principalele zone fiind: M-tii Piatra Craiului, M-tii Măceș, Piatra Mare, Ciucas, Făgăraș, Retezat, Apuseni și m-tii Moldovei).

Principalele programe sunt: Programul de asistență Comunitară - adresat în special persoanelor defavorizate. /// Programul Hand to Hand - are scopul de a favoriza legături între ONG / persoane din România și ONG / persoane în alte țări. /// Proiectul Luftenergy - are menirea de a combate poluarea și introducerea în practică a energiei nepoluante. (Program strict confidențial). /// Programul "Rezervațiile Unice ale lumii" - are menirea de a proteja rezervațiile din România care sunt supuse distrugerilor. /// Programul Salvați Natura. /// etc.

Ținem foarte mult să apreciem activitățile org. d-voastră și vă asigurăm că dorim să preluăm atât teoretic cât și practic orice program benefic întru bunăleț a umanității. Credem că colaborarea cu d-voastră ne-ar fi de mare folos. Deasemenea dorim să cunoaștem mai multe despre org. d-voastră și îndrăznim să vă cerem mai multe informații despre programele d-voastră, pliante, broșuri, referate, reviste, etc. (desigur dacă aveți disponibile). Am dori să fim pe cât posibil în centrul atenției org. d-voastră și această scrisoare să fie deschizătoarea a noi și durabile colaborări viitoare. Dorim ca următorii pași să-i facem împreună.

Multe succese în activitatea organizației d-voastră.

Cu profundă admirație,
ADMINISTRATIA ECO-CONSEIL

Fundația pentru promovarea tehnicilor de simulare - Timișoara

Catre

Fundația CENTRAS,
București

Timișoara la 31 octombrie 1996

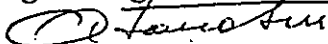
Vă transmitem prin prezenta scrisoare mulțumirile noastre călduroase pentru sprijinul pe care ni l-ați acordat prin copierea manuscrisului "Introducere în Simulink".

Această broșură a intrat în biblioteca Fundației noastre și este utilizată de studenții secției de studii aprofundate de la Facultatea de Electrotehnică din Timișoara.

Cu deosebită stimă,

Președinte,

Prof. Dr. Ing. Gheorghe Atanasiu



FROM : Paster Forum

PHONE NO. : 6144827

Oct. 24 1996 09:07AM P1

PROIECTUL PAL-TIN

Finanțat de Comunitatea Europeană

The PAL-TIN PROJECT

Financed by the European Community

MASTER Forum, Str. Ion Câmpineanu 9, ap.12, București 70116 ROMANIA

Tel /Fax:(40-1) 6144827

București

24 octombrie 1996

Doamnei Dana Stanciu
CENTRAS

Stimată doamnă,

Vă mulțumim pentru participarea dumneavoastră la Reuniunea consultativă dedicată lansării Centrului de resurse și asistență pentru consiliile locale ale copiilor înființate în cadrul Proiectului PAL-TIN.

Așa cum a rezultat din discuții, problema noastră este nu de a continua - ci cum să continuăm. Există ideea de a crea un centru. Dar cum? Cu cine? Ce funcții să definim pentru el? Cum să definim strategia acestui centru? De ce resurse dispunem și ce alte resurse putem atrage?

O ipoteză a constituit-o chiar dosarul prezentat.

Observațiile și sugestiile formulate de dumneavoastră ne-au fost deosebit de utile și ne vor ajuta în definirea strategiei Centrului în etapa următoare. Ne bucurăm să fiți alături de noi și în continuare.

Asupra propunerilor privind viitoarea colaborare vom reveni cât de curând.

Cu prietenie,

Ion Olteanu și Mihai Liscăchi
Coordonatori proiect PAL-TIN

ASOCIAȚIA PRO DEMOCRAȚIA

Democrație prin participare

ianuarie 1996

dragă domnule,

urmă cu trei luni Asociația PRO DEMOCRAȚIA a început să urmărească proiectul de modificare a legii alegerilor locale. Am semnalat încă de atunci, așa cum v-am spus, ajunsurile acestui proiect de lege, care impunea restricții inutile observatorilor interni.

După ce eforturile Asociației nu au fost răsplătite de votul senatorilor, ne bucurăm că putem da o veste bună: în urma sesiunii Comisiei Juridice a Camerei Deputaților, în care a fost analizat proiectul de lege, toate restricțiile referitoare la observatorii interni au fost eliminate.

Este o victorie importantă dar știm că mai este drum de parcurs. Proiectul de lege va trebui să treacă prin plenul Camerei Deputaților și prin procesul de mediere între cele două Camere. În tot acest timp, PRO DEMOCRAȚIA va urmări dezbaterile și va continua să lucreze cu deputații pentru a-i convinge să susțină amendamentele sugerate de noi.

Întărim pe faptul că veți fi lângă noi în continuare și vă mulțumim pentru sprijinul acordat până acum.

Stima,


Ștefan Diaconu

Coordonator pentru relația cu Parlamentul

Ultima oră

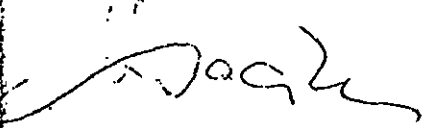
cotidian editat de INFORUST 2000 SA
str. Edgar Quinet nr1-3
tel. 615 59 84 fax 65 49 06

Catre CENTRAS

In atenta domnului *Dan Petrescu*, director executiv

In urma conferintei de presa organizate de CENTRAS, cotidianul **Ultima ora** a publicat in numarul sau de astazi, 13 februarie 1997 materialul intitulat "*Ministru cercetarii permite finantarea organizatiilor neguvernamentale*", material pe care vi-l trimit alaturat.

In speranta unei bune colaborari viitoare,



Adrian Bociu

BUL DE SPEOLOGIE "EMIL RACOVITĂ" BUCUREȘTI

adresa președintelui: Ică Vasile Giurgiu, bulevardul Alexandru Obregia 38, bloc R 7, ap. 79, 75579 București 82;
telefon acasă (40)01) 6835103, telefon / fax serviciu (40)01) 3125374

cont lei 4014011200 Banca Comercială "Ion Țiriac"
USD 4024008930

03. 03. 1997

Considerăm că Info ONG este pe o linie
termic ascendentă privind diversitatea și utilitatea
informației furnizate. Mulțumim! Avem speranța că
velul publicației poate crește în continuare.

Vă rugăm să primiți o sugestie din
partea noastră. Atunci când se vorbește despre legislație
ONG-uri poate nu este atât ușor să precizăm
cine, unde și de ce anume s-a împiedicat. Prin apariția
acestei reviste se vor cunoaște ONG-urile vor
fi avertizate, vor putea să prevină situații similare
sau să le găsească rezolvări.

președinte

Ică Vasile Giurgiu

Țiriac





Focul Viu

Asociația Speologică *Focul Viu*, str. Frumoasă 31, sector 1, București

tre:CENTRAS


atenția: Domnului Dan Petrescu

Stimate Domn,

Asociația Speologică "Focul Viu" vă mulțumește pentru sprijinul acordat în derularea proiectului "Conștientizarea și implicarea comunității sub aspectul protecției și valorificării resurselor de mediu"

Fiind convinși de succesul proiectului până în momentul de față sperăm într-o colaboare constructivă și pe viitor.

Director de programe
Vădîm Blidaru



efc
EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION
CENTRE

Fax Transmission

ue de la Concorde
50 Brussels, Belgium
32.2.512.89.38
32.2.512.32.65

Dana Stanciu - Assistance Centre for NGOs (CENTRAS)

From: Una Collier, Orpheus Programme Assistant
Date: 7 March 1997
Subject: Request for Information on *Educational Funding in Europe* directory.
Fax: +40.1.312.3414
Pages: 1

Dear Mr Stanciu,

Thank you very much for your early reponse to our fax regarding the new Orpheus Programme directory entitled *Educational Funding in Europe*.

Should you come across any further education/training funders who would be of interest to us and that fit the selection criteria - mainly European or transnational level, please forward us the necessary contact data at your earliest convenience.

The information you sent to us was most helpful to us in our research. Thanking you once again for your continuous support for the Orpheus Programme.

Yours sincerely,



Una Collier
Orpheus Programme Assistant



Asociația Română de Educație pentru Democrație și Drepturile Omului
The Romanian Association of Education for Democracy and Human Rights

Catre: Dl. Viorel MICESCU
coordonator programe
CENTRAS
tel/fax: 312.50.04/312.34.14

De la: Cristian GRECU
coordonator program
AREDDO

25.03.1997

Stimate Domn,

Va rugam sa primiti cele mai sincere multumiri pentru donatia de publicatii si materiale informative cu caracter educational ("*Europa ABC*", "*Ce anume este democratia?*"; "*Democratia in Romania contemporana*"; "*Documente ale prosperitatii*", etc). Initiativa Dumneavoastra vine atat in sprijinul membrilor organizatiei noastre cat si in cel al beneficiarilor directi ai programelor derulate de AREDDO (cadre didactice, elevi, parinti, reprezentanti ai autoritatilor locale). O parte din ele au fost distribuite in cadrul festivitatile de premiere pentru castigatorii fazei municipale a Olimpiadei de Cultura Civica, desfasurate la Casa Corpului Didactic din Bucuresti, in data de 19.03.1997.

Suntem incredintati ca CENTRAS, Dumneavoastra personal, veti intampina cu aceeasi disponibilitate si bunavointa orice solicitare de aceeasi natura venita din partea organizatiei noastre.

Asigurandu-va de cea mai aleasa consideratie, al Dumneavoastra,

Cristian GRECU



FUNDATIA CRISTINA

Str. Ing. Zablovschi nr. 2, bl. 12 B, et. 3, ap. 14, Bucuresti - Romania

Tel. / Fax: 322 24 53 / 322 28 53 / 323 02 09

CATRE ,

CENTRU DE ASISTENTA PENTRU
ORGANIZATIILE NEGUVERNAMENTALE

In atentie d - rei Carmen Grecu ,

Va multumim pentru consultatia acordata , informatiile furnizate de
dumneavoastra fiindu - ne de folos .

Totodata , va comunicam in anexa , datele despre fundatia noastra .

Cu stima ,

GRIGORE STOICESCU





Commission mondiale de la culture et du développement
World Commission on Culture and Development



se postale: UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
BP-307
75352 Paris 07 SP
hone: national: (1) 45.68.15.08 / 45.68.14.07
international: (33 1) 45.68.15.08 / 45.68.14.07
grammes: UNESCO Paris
a: 204461
270602
(33 1) 45.67.04.07

érence: CCD/95

Dear Madam/Dear Sir,

I am glad to send you enclosed a copy of *Our Creative Diversity*, the just published Report of the independent World Commission on Culture and Development set up jointly by UNESCO and the United Nations.

A special presentation of the Report was made at the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the European Foundation Centre held in Seville on 8-10 November. Considerable interest was expressed in our Commission's positive stance with regard to the "Third Sector" (see pp. 48-50; 248-251; 285-287) and in our exhortation that civil society organizations be associated with the "International Agenda" we recommend.

We hope your organization will join the worldwide debate that *Our Creative Diversity* aims to set in motion and look forward to your assistance in mobilizing both political will and public support for the tasks that lie ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
President

BY FAX 00 40 1 312 3414

29 October 1996

Mr Viorel Micescu
CENTRAS
Str. Franklin, 9
et. 4, apt 8
BUCHAREST
Romania



Westminster Foundation
for
Democracy

Clutha House
10 Storey's Gate
Westminster
London SW1P 3AY
Telephone: (44) (0) 171 976 7565
Fax: (44) (0) 171 976 7464
Direct Line: (44) (0) 171 976

Dear Viorel,

Visit to Romania 23 - 25 October 1996

A short letter to thank you very much for sparing the time to see me during my visit to Bucharest last week.

I was able to meet with a broad range of organisations which are involved in political, human rights and civil society fields in Romania. In a similar way to our meeting I was able to discuss with them their organisation's current work as well as their plans to further develop pluralist democratic society in Romania. I felt that I learned a great deal during my short visit and am currently looking closely at the comments and suggestions made to the Foundation to help further development of democratic institutions in Romania.

I hope to be in touch with you soon to clarify ideas you raised for the Foundation's future work in Romania.

Yours sincerely

Siobhain O'Beirne
Project Manager

*p.s. Sorry I didn't make
it to the office on Saturday
to collect the disk you kindly
offered to me.*

Patrons:

The Speaker of the House of Commons
Rt Hon John Major MP, Rt Hon Tony Blair MP, Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP
Rt Hon David Williams MP, Dafydd Wigley MP, John Hume MP MEP, Mrs Margaret Ewing MP, Dr Ian Paisley MP MEP
Chief Executive: Stephen J Cox



MONDOCOOP FOUNDATION

Adresa poștală: C.P. 45-9, cod 70750, sect.1, București, România;
Sediu: str. Banul Udrea, nr.10, bl.H6, sc.2, ap.63, sect.3, București,
România; tel. 6.30.85.95; tel./fax : 3.11.36.10

Dest.

CENTRAS

Str. Benjamin Franklin, nr.9,
et.4, ap.8, sect.1, 70149,
București, România

Data: 23.07.1996

In atenția: Comitetului Director al InfoONG

Vă adresăm prin prezenta întreaga noastră apreciere pentru calitatea revistei InfoONG, pe care o găsim foarte interesantă și utilă. Din acest motiv v-am fi deosebit de recunoscători dacă ne-ați putea comunica modalitatea prin care putem intra în posesia următoarelor numere ale revistei.

Fundația MONDOCOOP fiind recent înființată, cu siguranță că este pentru prima dată când auziți de noi. Prin urmare, considerăm de cuviință să anexăm și o scurtă prezentare a scopului și obiectivelor noastre, cu mențiunea că ori de câte ori putem ajuta cu ceva, o vom face cu plăcere.

Persoană de contact din partea noastră: Cristian Pătrașcu.

In speranța unei bune colaborări pe viitor,

Cu mulțumiri și stimă,



Mihai Crăciun

Secretar General

N.B. Pentru moment preferăm să primim corespondența la căsuța poștală menționată în antet.



YOUTH ACTION FOR PEACE - ROMANIA

MIȘCAREA TINERILOR PENTRU PACE

ACTION JEUNESSE POUR LA PAIX

IFJÜSÁGI BÉKEMOZGALOM

Str. Emil Isac 8/1, C.P. 457

3400 Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA

Tel/fax: +40-64-431824

E-mail: office@yap.org.soroscj.ro

Stimată/c *domnule Dorin Tudoran*

Vă mulțumesc pentru amabilitatea de care ați dat dovadă completând chestionarul pe care vi l-am trimis.

Am transmis datele organizației dumneavoastră către UNITED și probabil veți primi în viitor materiale informative direct de la ei.

Vă rog să nu uitați să ne trimiteți informații concrete (tipul activității, scopuri, locul și perioada de desfășurare, persoana de contact, condiții de participare, etc) despre activitățile pe care le veți desfășura, în vederea includerii lor în următoarele ediții ale calendarului.

Vă rugăm să nu omiteți nici acțiunile cu caracter local, acestea ajutându-ne să ne formăm o impresie generală despre activitatea organizațiilor în acest domeniu.

Vă mulțumesc pentru colaborare.

Al dumneavoastră,

László Pethő

OK

ROMANIA
ORGANIZAȚIA JUDEȚEANĂ
PENTRU TINERET "HYPERION"
HUNEDOARA - DEVA
Str. M. Eminescu, nr. 2
2700 - Deva, jud. Hunedoara
Nr. 13 1/6.04. 1997

CĂTRE,

Redacția Info ONG
Str. Benjamin Franklin 9, et.4,
ap.8, sect.1, 70149 - București

Prin prezenta vă rugăm să ne abonați la revista dumneavoastră pe anul 1997, iar în măsura posibilităților de care dispuneți vă rugăm să ne trimiteți și cite un exemplar din numerele care au apărut pînă acum.

Suntem o asociație nonprofit, fără coloratură politică și nonguvernamentală specializată în domeniul tineretului.

Considerăm revista editată de dumneavoastră ca fiind foarte utilă pentru activitatea desfășurată de ONG - uri.

Vă rugăm să ne comunicați pe adresa din antet care este sistemul de plată pentru abonament.

Cu deosebită stimă,

PREȘEDINTE,

ȘAUCĂ IOAN AUREL



efc
EUROPEAN
FOUNDATION
CENTRE

Fax Transmission

ue de la Concorde
50 Brussels, Belgium

32.2.512.89.38

32.2.512.32.65

Dana Stanciu - Assistance Centre for NGOs (CENTRAS)

From: Una Collier, Orpheus Programme Assistant
Date: 7 March 1997
Subject: Request for Information on *Educational Funding in Europe* directory.
Fax: +40.1.312.3414
Pages: 1

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Yours sincerely,



Una Collier
Orpheus Programme Assistant



File GSF

Bucuresti, 08/03/95

**IFES - Fundatia Internatională pentru
Sisteme Electorale**

Strada Benjamin Franklin 9, et. 4, ap. 8, sector 1
Bucuresti ROMANIA

În atenția Domnului Dan PETRESCU

OBIECT : Ciclul de Seminarii "MANAGEMENTUL MEDIULUI".
NREF : GFF-95144/ARM

Dragă Domnule,

Ca urmare a reuniunii pe care am avut-o pe data de 09/02/95 în birourile Dumneavoastră, la care am fost acompaniată de Domnul Adrian Relicovschi, Presedintele asociatiei noastre, vă mulțumim pentru excelența primire pe care ne-ați rezervat-o.

Cu această ocazie, am remarcat interesul Dumneavoastră pentru Ciclul de 12 seminarii "Managementul Mediului", pe care îl organizăm împreună cu Gestionnaires sans Frontières (Franta), EDF - Électricité de France, KPMG Franta, FOLOS Consultants, Universitatea Bucuresti și Ministerul Industriilor din România.

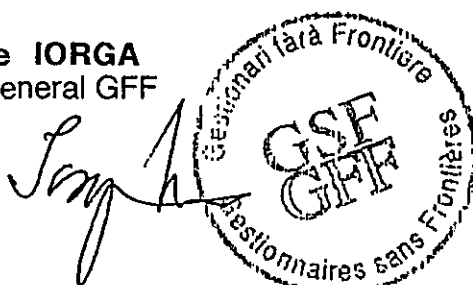
Avem convingerea că atât calitatea subiectelor acestui ciclu de seminarii, cât și tratarea profesională a tematicii acestor seminarii, vor atrage publicul vizat de această acțiune : cadre de conducere din economia română.

Încheiem mulțumindu-vă încă o dată pentru interesul pe care îl purtați acțiunilor noastre și, cu speranța că veți participa la eforturile noastre, vă propunem să ne revedem în curând. Vom fi însoțiți de către Domnul Lucian Matei, coordonator împreună cu noi al celor trei acțiuni având ca temă generală managementul mediului :

- Ciclul de Seminarii "Managementul Mediului",
- Conferința Internațională "Gestiunea Mediului" 1995 (a 2-a ediție),
- Centrul Județean al Mediului Prahova.

Vă rugăm să acceptați, Dragă Domnule, salutările noastre cordiale.

Madeleine IORGA
Secretar General GFF



GESTIONARI FĂRĂ FRONTIERE

FONDATION RENÉ SEYDOUX pour le monde méditerranéen
5, boulevard Malesherbes - 75008 Paris
téléphone 49 24 40 41
fax 49 24 40 43

Date: 25 July 1996

A l'attention de: Mr Dan PETRES CU
Executive Director
CENTRAS

Télexcopie: 312.34.14

De la part de: MS Séverine Nickel

Commentaires: Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your telexcopy and
the information you send us about your
organization. Your suggestion to enclose our
inquiry in your magazine is excellent.
We are most grateful for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Michael



SOCIETATEA INDEPENDENTA ROMANA A DREPTURILOR OMULUI
ROMANIAN INDEPENDENT SOCIETY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Către: Alexandra Caracoti
IFES
Information Officer
Fax: 312.34.14

15 Septembrie 1994

Dragă Alexandra,

Îți mulțumesc foarte mult pentru materialele trimise și pentru tot ajutorul acordat. Seminariile au ieșit foarte bine și nu pot decât să vă mulțumesc tuturor pentru promptitudinea cu care ne-ați ajutat și de data aceasta.

Timpul scurt de care am dispus m-a împiedicat să fiu la fel de promptă în a-mi manifesta recunoștința. Sper că nu este prea târziu !

Pot să sper că vom beneficia în continuare de ajutorul vostru?

Mult succes în continuare ție și colegilor tăi (și prietenii noștri).

Ligia Neacsu
Director de Program

Federația Națională a Pensionarilor din Români
Str. Ministerului Nr. 1-3, Sector 1, București
Tel.: 638.60.45 / 624.52.49

FTMAN

Către CENTRAS

În atenția domnului DORIN TUDORAN

C
T
S

Stimate domnule Tudoran,

Prin intermediul acestui mesaj doresc să a
Pensionarilor din România, atât Dv. pentru
efortul depus la organizarea lucrărilor

Fundatia CENTRAS și-a asumat responsabilitatea
unei manifestări de mare amploare pentru
dificultăților, să impună acest FORUM.

Suntem convinși că aprecierile noastre de
evaluare a lucrărilor FORUM-ului.

În încheiere, am dori să vă transmitem în
continuare.

Vicepreședinte

FOCA GHEORGHE

OK

CONSILIUL JUDEȚEAN SATU MARE

CĂTRE

CENTRUL DE ASISTENȚĂ PENTRU ONG
BUCUREȘTI 70149
str. Franklin nr.9, et.4, ap.8, sector 1

Prin prezenta, vă rugăm să ne sprijiniți în obținerea unui exemplar din revista „Info ONG” editată de dvs. necesară pentru buna desfășurare a activității Comisiei pentru relații cu reprezentanți ai societății civile, organizații non-guvernamentale, relații externe, care funcționează în cadrul Consiliului Județean.

PREȘEDINTE,

Gheorghe Miclăuș

SECRETAR,

Cornelia Bota



Membra a FIMITIC (Fédération Internationale des Mutilés, des Invalides du Travail et des Invalides Civils)
a Mobility International
si a ALS/MND (International Alliance for People with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/ Motor Neurone Disease)

4049/22.11.1996.

CENTRAS

În atenție Dnui Director executiv Dan Petrescu,

Stimate Domnule Petrescu,

Vă mulțumesc pentru Cartea Albă „Forumul ONG „deproteccion
societății Civile și pentru buletinul nr 5/1996 al ONG-urilor din România.
Astea publicații sînt f. interesante pentru ONG-urile din România
și aceea vă adresez rugămintea ca în limita posibilităților să
transmițeti aceste buletine și asociațiilor membre ale AHNR
cărora listă și adrese vi le anexez.

Mulțumindu-vă anticipat, vă rog să primiți întreaga
ea consideratie.

Monica Antoci

Președinta A.H.N.R.

Antoci

ECOSSENS 

ORGANIZAȚIE NEGUVERNAMENTALĂ DE MEDIU

Adresă:
Greceanu 9
26, Ap.38
București

Adresă:
Căpâlniceanu
Sc.A, Ap.3
București

413

Electronică:
ecosens@bncl.ro

În atenția:

Dnii. Dan Petrescu
CENTRAS
București
Fax: 312.3414

București, 18 Noiembrie 1996

Stimate domnule Dan Petrescu,

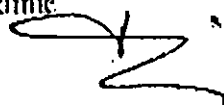
Am primit și lecturat cu interes *Carta Albă* a FOR '96 - Forumul Organizațiilor Neguvernamentale din România, 27 - 30 Iunie 1996, purtând subtitlul "*Dezvoltarea Societății Civile*". Materialul, deși destul de compact, este ușor lizibil și, de altfel, interesant. Dar nu aceasta este principala chestiune care ne-a determinat să vă contactăm. Ceea ce ne doare este modul de întocmire al listei participanților. Am constatat, cu surprindere, că organizația noastră, ECOSSENS, nu figurează pe lista participanților. Și lipsește total, nu numai din rândul organizațiilor neguvernamentale de mediu participante la FOR '96, cf. pp. 82-83 din publicația mai sus-menționată.

Nedumerirea noastră provine, zicem noi legitim, din faptul că reprezentantul nostru - dl. Mariu Marian - a confirmat participarea prin înscrierea sa pe listele de participanți. Pe undeva, credem că s-a comis o eroare, sperăm involuntară și fără nici o legătură cu ideea de reprezentativitate... sau reprezentare.

Așteptând un răspuns, vă mulțumim totodată pentru înțelegere,

Cu considerație,

Florin Mircea VASILIU
președinte



Micolă SA

ar:

0

0

*Asociatia Studenteasca de Lupta Impotriva
Rasismului*

Bucuresti, Str. Dr. Burghilea 10 A, Sect 2
tel: 00 4 01 6138866 fax: 00 4 01 3113374
e-mail: aslir@org.pcnet.ro

Bucuresti, 28.08.1996

Catre: Centrul de Asistenta pentru ONG --CENTRAS

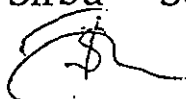
Dragi prieteni,

In primul rand permiteti-mi sa va multumesc pentru "Buletinul organizatiilor neguvernamentale din Romania" pe care l-ati expediat pe adresa Asociatiei Studentesti de Lupta Impotriva Rasismului. Speram ca acesta sa constituie un prim pas intr-o colaborare profitabila pentru ambele parti. Cu aceasta ocazie avem placerea sa va trimitem o agenda europeana cu organizatiile ce lupta impotriva rasismului, nationalismului, fascismului si acorda sprijin migrantilor si refugiatilor (tot in ideea de a amplifica comunicarea intre O.N.G.-uri, chiar la nivel european).

Va dorim toate cele bune!

Cu sinceritate,

Anca Sirbu - Secretar executiv ASLIR



IFES Civic Education Project, 1994-1996
Final Activity Report
November 1997

ATTACHMENT C
VOCEA CIVICA TO INFOONG:
A SELECTION OF ISSUES





Vocea Civică



No. 2

August 1994

Cuvânt către cititori

Programul IFES "Vocea Civică", finanțat de Agenția Statelor Unite pentru Dezvoltare Internațională își continuă misiunea sa prin dezvoltarea Centrului de Resurse și Asistență în domeniul educației civice în România, caracterizat printr-o atitudine pluralistă, nepartizană.

Sperăm ca prin publicarea și difuzarea acestui buletin informativ să contribuim la o mai bună comunicare și circulație a informației între grupurile și organizațiile implicate activ în promovarea culturii civice în România. IFES dorește să sprijine în continuare toate aceste asociații prin organizarea de seminarii, forumuri și ateliere, prin asistență tehnică și organizațională sau punându-le la dispoziție cărțile și videocasetele din biblioteca centrului.

Experiența noastră ne-a arătat că toate aceste resurse sunt importante pentru promovarea educației civice în România.

IFES, prin Centrul de Resurse și Asistență, se oferă să funcționeze ca un "clearing house" pentru coordonarea programelor de educație civică în România, prin asistența oferită în organizarea de seminarii și conferințe care vor contribui, sperăm, la implicarea unui număr cât mai mare de cetățeni în procesul de democratizare și dezvoltare a societății civile în România.

Pe lângă aceasta activitate, IFES a identificat și alte domenii pentru o posibilă cooperare între ONG-urile implicate activ în dezvoltarea societății civile, și anume:

- *întâlniri lunare informale ale reprezentanților ONG-urilor, la care vor fi invitați să participe parlamentari sau reprezentanți ai unor organizații finanțatoare;*
- *dezvoltarea bazei de date cuprinzând lectori români și străini, după domeniul de activitate, precum și liste de posibili participanți pentru organizarea de seminarii;*
- *asistență tehnică și logistică oferită ONG-urilor;*
- *publicarea cu regularitate a buletinului informativ "Vocea Civică";*
- *oferind ONG-urilor, prin Centrul de Resurse, acces la o rețea mondială de e-mail (Internet).*

Buletin informativ
editat de
Proiectul
de Educație Civică
în România
al Fundației
Internaționale
pentru Sisteme
Electorale
(IFES)

Marea Britanie - Alegeri pentru Parlamentul European

În iunie 1994, IFES a participat ca invitat internațional la alegerile ce au avut loc în Marea Britanie pentru Parlamentul European. Participarea IFES se încadrează în preocupările noastre curente pentru reformă electorală și a fost finanțată de "Association of Election Administrators" din Marea Britanie.

Din delegația română au făcut parte: Alin Teodorescu - președintele Fundației Soros pentru Societate Deschisă și director executiv al IMAS (Institutul de Marketing și Analiză Sociologică); Lucian Mihai - profesor de drept, Universitatea din București; Tiberiu Dianu, cercetător la Institutul de Studii Juridice; Adrian Sorescu, coordonator de programe, asociația Prodemocrația și Dan Petrescu-IFES București.

Agenda vizitei s-a concentrat asupra unor aspecte ale procesului electoral și ale administrației locale, și anume:

- verificarea și numărarea voturilor prin poștă (sistem folosit în Marea Britanie ce presupune un grad ridicat de încredere între electorat și administrația electorală);
- observarea campaniei electorale și a modului în care condițiile locale pot influența rezultatele alegerilor și pozițiile partidelor față de integrarea europeană a țărilor din centrul și estul Europei;

- prezentare demonstrativă a software-ului utilizat pentru înregistrarea alegătorilor precum și a modului de administrare a alegerilor, ce ar putea fi eventual adaptate condițiilor din România;
- posibilitatea de a lucra cu oficialități implicate în administrarea procesului electoral în Ungaria, Estonia, Polonia și Lituania.

Aspectele semnificative surprinse au fost:

- 1) în timpul vizitării centrelor de votare echipa a observat o participare la vot mai scăzută decât se anticipase. Pe lângă aceasta, s-a remarcat faptul că observatorii din partea partidelor politice erau staționați în fața centrelor de votare (și nu înăuntru), datorită lor fiind de a monitoriza participarea la vot și nu votarea propriu-zisă.
- 2) imediat după închiderea centrelor de votare și odată cu verificarea urnelor, o echipă formată din 60 de oficiali și-a început activitatea de comparare a numărului de buletine de vot din fiecare urnă cu numărul de buletine de vot distribuite. Se cuvine a fi menționat faptul că, deși centrele de votare erau răspândite pe o suprafață mare iar ultima urnă a fost adusă la orele 23:30, această verificare a fost încheiată la orele 24:00. Echipa de observatori a considerat acest lucru un exemplu elocvent de pregătire și administrare eficientă.
- 3) în numai două ore a fost realizată numărătoarea voturilor, iar la câteva

minute rezultatele oficiale au fost anunțate de către reprezentantul reginei (High Sheriff). Pentru asigurarea profesionalismului și disciplinei, pe lângă cei însărcinați cu numărătoarea voturilor, au participat și alte oficialități cum ar fi: foști și actuali membri ai Consiliilor Districtuale și președinți ai comisiilor electorale.

- 4) simplitatea și claritatea buletinelor de vot precum și a afișelor cu instrucțiuni adresate alegătorilor au condus la obținerea unui foarte mic procent (numai 0,1%) de voturi anulate. De asemenea, nu au existat fraude electorale sau plângeri, toți candidații aducând elogii administratorilor electorali pentru eforturile lor competente.

Dan Petrescu (IFES) a declarat: "La reușita întregului proces au contribuit doi factori subiectivi: tradiția și încrederea.

Un proces pus în practică de foarte mult timp și în mod repetat creează un aparat demn de încredere. Încrederea în oficialități este, în opinia mea, diferența majoră dintre sistemele noastre. De la atitudinea observatorilor din partea partidelor politice și până la modul în care au fost primite rezultatele, totul arată deplină încredere a cetățenilor în administrația electorală." În concluzie, putem spune că vizita a fost o importantă ocazie de pregătire pentru delegația română în vederea reformei sistemului electoral în România prin înființarea unei comisii electorale permanente și amendarea legii electorale.

Alegeri locale în Polonia

Între 15 și 22 iunie, la invitația Fundației Soros pentru o Societate Deschisă și cu sprijinul financiar al "Foundation in Support of Local Democracy" o delegație română a observat alegerile locale din Kielce, oraș de 230.000 de locuitori aflat la sud de Varșovia. În program au intrat întâlniri cu primari, reprezentanți ai administrației locale, membri ai partidelor politice și ziarști. Din delegație au făcut parte: Ioan Bele, vicepreședinte al Consiliului local Alba; Ion Nuțu, viceprimar al orașului Roșiori de Vede; Bogdan Găbudeanu, consilier municipal, București; Hadrian Mateescu și Rodica Țugui de la Institutul pentru sondarea opiniei publice Cluj; Andreea Niculescu-Aron, Centrul pentru Studii politice; Daniel Marius Pascu, Daniela Venter și Mariana Pecetescu, Prodemocrația și Laurențiu Vasilescu, IFES București. Tot ca observatori ai alegerilor locale, în Polonia s-au mai aflat în aceeași perioadă delegații din Ungaria, Slovacia, Bielorusia, Ucraina, Letonia, Estonia și Lituania. Scopul acestor delegații a fost observarea procesului electoral propriu-zis precum și studierea sistemului de administrație locală din Polonia.



John Bambrook, președinte - Association for Election Administrators și Dan Petrescu - IFES/București la ceremonia de încheiere a vizitei în Marea Britanie.

Alegerile parlamentare din Moldova

În februarie, IFES București a colaborat cu IFES Washington pentru a oferi asistență tehnică Republicii Moldova. A fost asigurat prin România, tranzitul de echipament pentru Comisia Electorală Centrală din Moldova, înainte de primele alegeri parlamentare desfășurate în țară de la obținerea independenței. Sperăm să coordonăm și în viitor activități comune între cele două țări.

IFES-"Forum ONG-Dezvoltarea Societății Civile"

În perioada 24-29 martie Proiectul IFES de Educație Civică a organizat la Sinaia un forum al ONG-urilor din România. La eveniment, primul de acest gen din țară, au participat peste 75 de organizații neguvernamentale românești, implicate activ în dezvoltarea societății civile în România. Pentru liderii ONG forumul a fost un prilej de a discuta despre activitatea și nevoile organizațiilor neguvernamentale cu reprezentanți ai executivului și legislativului prezenți la dezbateri. Discuțiile s-au axat pe schimbările structurale necesare pentru a crea un mediu propice dezvoltării ONG-urilor. În plus, au fost făcute prezentări de către experți de la universități americane și europene sau de către reprezentanți ai unor organizații finanțatoare precum USAID, EC-PHARE sau Fundația Soros. Au fost organizate zilnic serii de ateliere pe următoarele domenii de activitate a ONG-urilor românești: business/economie, ecologie, drepturile omului, mass media, civic și tineret.

În aceste ateliere au fost revizuite șase "cărți albe", pe domenii, scopul acestora fiind prezentarea problemelor și evaluarea resurselor de care dispun ONG-urile din România.

Odata finalizate, aceste "cărți albe" vor fi distribuite ONG-urilor, reprezentanților guvernului, parlamentarilor și organizațiilor finanțatoare internaționale. După încheierea lucrărilor Forumului, IFES-ul a participat la discuții cu lideri ai unor ONG-uri și a redactat cereri de asistență către USAID București și IFES Washington pentru finanțarea unui Birou de Informații pentru ONG-uri la Parlament; cerință rezultată în urma Forumului de la Sinaia. Sperăm să obținem un răspuns favorabil din partea Birourilor Permanente ale Senatului și Camerei Deputaților, cărora le-a fost înaintată aceasta cerere a participanților la Forum.

Forumul ONG în presă

Televiziunea Română a prezentat în două emisiuni de Actualități aspecte de la Forumul național ONG, organizat de IFES la Sinaia. Radio România Actualități a transmis în direct de la Sinaia în toate cele cinci zile ale evenimentului.

Pentru aceia dintre dumneavoastră care nu au avut ocazia de a participa la Forum, o informație utilă este aceea că IFES București a produs un film de 30 de minute bazat pe interviuri realizate în timpul Forumului. Scenariul acestui film analizează detaliat legătura importantă dintre ONG-uri și societatea civilă precum și condițiile în care activează ONG-urile în prezent în România.



Sesiune în plen la Forumul ONG din Sinaia reunind funcționari guvernamentali și lideri ONG.

FORUM ONG LISTĂ DE PARTICIPANȚI

Sinaia, Romania - Martie 24-29 1994

IFES București

01. Obie Moore, Director de Proiect
02. Dan Petrescu, Director de Program
03. Viorel Micescu, Director Administrativ
04. Alexandra Caracoti, Atșat de Presă
05. Laurențiu Vasilescu, Asistent
06. Andrei Caracoti, Asistent

Translatori

07. Monica Nicoară, București
08. Raluca Munteanu, Brașov
09. Marina Irimie, București

Agencia Statelor Unite pentru Dezvoltare Internațională

10. Richard Hough, Reprezentant pentru România
11. William Carter, Director de Proiect
12. Adrian Ciobanu, Asistent de Proiect

Participanți străini

13. Steve Sampson, Universitatea Copenhaga
14. Cole Durham, Universitatea Brigham Young (SUA)
15. Karla Simon, Centrul Internațional "Not-For-Profit Law"
16. Kristian Sorensen, Proiect Phare în România (Danemarca)
17. Roger Ream, "Fund for American Studies (SUA)"
18. Randal Teague, Membru Consiliu IFES (USA)
19. Jack Reynolds, "Support Centers of America" (Cehia)
20. Lee Rosner, "Agricultural Coop. Development Int'l"
21. Johanna Welzenbach, Consultant Management (București)
22. Irena Lasota, Institutul pentru Democrație în Europa de Est
23. Henry Carey, Centrul pentru Științe Sociale București
24. Mark Dietrich, Asociația Baroului American (București)
25. Earl Pope, Profesor Fulbright, Universitatea București
26. Ed Rekosh, Grupul Juridic Internațional pentru Drepturile Omului
27. John Anelli, Institutul Republican Internațional
28. Thomas McClure, "Support Centers of America" (SUA)
29. Ruth Cinniger, Profesor Fulbright, Universitatea Cluj
30. Ron Cinniger, Profesor Fulbright, Universitatea Cluj
31. Vasile Andrieș, Pro Democrația Moldova
32. Alexandru Botoșanu, Pro Democrația Moldova
33. Igor Grosu, Pro Democrația Moldova
34. Alen Cirimpei, Pro Democrația Moldova

Reprezentanți ai Guvernului/ Parlamentului/Experți

35. Emil Negruțiu, Partidul Alianței Civice (PAC)
36. Ion Predescu, Partidul Democrat (PD)
37. Pavel Tanase Tăvală, Partidul Național țărănesc - Creștin și Democrat (PNT-CD)
38. Ion Rațiu, Partidul Național țărănesc - Creștin și Democrat (PNT-CD)
39. Aurel Știrbu, Partidul Democrației Sociale din România (PDSR)
40. Nicu Vintilă, Partidul Democrației Sociale din România (PDSR)
41. Romeo N. Roșca, Partidul Democrației Sociale din România (PDSR)
42. Călin Anastasiu, Partidul Liberal '93 (PL'93)
43. Vladimir Pasti, Direcția pentru Dezvoltare Socială și Reformă Administrativă
44. Florin Costiniu, Ministerul Justiției
45. Ion Neacșu, Ministerul Educației
46. Palade Gugui, Ministerul Educației
47. Lucia Ciucă, Ministerul Mediului
48. Marian Panțuru, Ministerul de Finanțe
49. Doina Moșanu, Ministerul de Finanțe
50. Gabriel Micu, Ministerul Tineretului și Sportului
51. Dan Trestieni, Centrul de Cercetări pentru Problemele Tinerilor
52. Horia Murgu, Consiliul Național pentru Audiovizual
53. Ileana Dragomir, Banca Română de Comerț Exterior (BRCE)
54. Gabriela Tudor, Banca Națională a României
55. Lucian Mihai, Facultatea de Drept, București

ONG-uri Economice

56. Ștefan Mamulea, Asociația pentru Încurajarea Întreprinderilor Mici și Mijlocii
57. Bogdan Spiridon, Asociația pentru Industria Electronică
58. Gabriela Matei, Centrul pentru Analiză și Studii pentru Dezvoltare
59. Ion Anton, Centrul Internațional pentru Studii Antreprenoriale
60. Despina Pascal, Centrul Internațional pentru Studii Antreprenoriale
61. Jozsef Somai, Fundația "Boloni Farkas Sandor"
62. Dan Stancu, Institutul Liberty
63. Dana Davidescu, Institutul Liberty
64. Ihor Lemnij, Societatea Română a Economistilor
65. Virgil Stoenescu, Societatea Română a Economistilor
66. George Serb, IGS Management

ONG-uri Civice

67. Ana Blandiana, Alianța Civică
68. Alina Inayeh, Asociația Pro Democrația
69. Adrian Sorescu, Asociația Pro Democrația
70. Marian Țața, Asociația Pro Democrația (Brașov)
71. Peter Andras, Fundația CIVITAS (Cluj)
72. Lorant Czara, Fundația CIVITAS (Cluj)
73. Peter Eckstein-Kovacs, Fundația CIVITAS (Cluj);
74. Andreea Niculescu Aron, Centrul pentru Studii Politice
75. Angela Enache, Fundația Humanitas
76. Luminița Petrescu, Fundația pentru Pluralism
77. Melanie Griffiths, Fundația pentru Pluralism
78. Bogdan Popovici, Fundația pentru Pluralism
79. Dan Petre, Fundația Română pentru Democrație
80. Ferencs Csorban, Asociația pentru Protecția Moștenirii Arhitecturale
81. Mariana Celac, Uniunea Arhitecților

ONG-uri pt. Drepturile Omului

82. Gabriel Andreescu, Asociația pentru Apărarea Drepturilor Omului din România-Comitetul Helsinki
83. Ana-Maria Biro, Fundația Civitas (București)
84. Vasile Ionescu, "Aven Amentza"
85. Petre Popescu, "Aven Amentza"
86. Dan Oprea, Avocații pentru Apărarea Drepturilor Omului (Brașov)
87. Maria Păvălache, Avocații pentru Apărarea Drepturilor Omului (Brașov)
88. Silviu Jecu, Avocații pentru Apărarea Drepturilor Omului (Brașov)
89. Emilian Niculae, Centrul Romilor pentru Intervenție Socială
90. Ovidiu Horea Maican, Societatea Independentă Română

ONG-uri pentru Protecția Mediului

91. Mărioara Pușcaș, Albamont (Alba Iulia)
92. Dorin Iancu, Albamont (Alba Iulia)
93. Rodica Ștefănescu, "Environment Training Program"
94. Dan Gabriel Manoleli, Grupul Ecologic de Colaborare
95. Ioana Popescu, Grupul pentru Explorări Speologice
96. Alexandru Săvulescu, "Regional Environmental Center" (Budapesta)

97. Ovidiu Oancea, "Regional Environmental Center"
98. Istvan Sido, AIDROM/Soc. Rhododendron (Tg. Mureș)
99. Gabriel Motică, Societatea Ecologică din Maramureș (Baia Mare)
100. Constantin Bândiu, Societatea Ecologică Română
101. Călin Georgescu, Tineretul Ecologist Român
102. Ioana Anca Petrescu, Tineretul Ecologist Român

ONG-uri de Mass-Media

103. Mircea Toma, Academia Cașavencu
104. Cornel Ciomăzga, Asociația Jurnaliștilor Europeni
105. Dragoș Calîțoiu, Asociația Română pentru Comunicare
106. Dan Preisz, Asociația Ziaristilor din România
107. Dan Pavel, Fundația Societatea Civilă
108. Paul Markovits, Fundația pentru Strategii de Comunicare
109. Antal Farkas, Fundația UTV (Odorheiu Secuiesc)
110. Georgeta Munteanu, Informatix (Partener român Gallup)

ONG-uri de Tineret

111. Alexandru S. Leotescu, Asociația Internațională a Studenților Economiști
112. Iulian Costache, ANTRACT
113. Catalin Strat, ANTRACT
114. Bogdan Tebeică, Centrul Național de Turism pentru Tineret
115. Adina Dabu, Cercetașii României
116. Ovidiu Cupșa, Liga Studenților (Constanța)
117. Mircea Pop, Liga Studenților (Constanța)
118. Ion Olteanu, Master Forum
119. Adriana Pașcan, Master Forum
120. Laszlo Tamas, Federația Organizațiilor de Tineret Maghiare
121. Pal Nagy, Forumul Tânăr din Odorhei
122. Costel Vasile, Societatea Tânăra Generație a Romilor
123. Mirela Meiță, Uniunea Studenților Ecologiști

Alții

124. Cristian Amza, TVR
125. Alina Pagu, TVR
126. Alexandru Motroașă, ROMPRES

"Master Forum"

Asociația Master Forum condusă de domnul Ion Olteanu a fost gazda și organizatoarea unui eveniment la Alexandria, pe data de 10 februarie. IFES București a lucrat ca partener și a participat la acest program, intitulat PAL-TIN (Participarea Tineretului la Administrația Locală), ale cărui principale scopuri sunt:

a) atragerea oficialităților locale în procesul de educare a tinerilor cu privire la responsabilitățile ce revin reprezentanților oficiali, fie aceștia alesi sau numiți; promovarea conceptului de "funcționare publică". Dintre subiectele discutate menționăm: bugetul local, administrația centrală și locală, procesul electoral.

b) încercarea de a aduce în atenția Consiliului local tinerii, cu speranțele, dorințele și problemele lor.

Tinerii au participat apoi în alegeri desemnându-și astfel reprezentanții în Consiliul local al tinerilor. Pe lângă relatările despre acest eveniment apărute în presa centrală și locală, TVR a prezentat în emisiunea Actualități aspecte de la ceremonia de deschidere a acestei manifestări. IFES a susținut și asistat în continuare proiectul PAL-TIN al asociației Master Forum, participând chiar la aplicarea acestui proiect la Focșani și Urziceni, evenimente despre care au relatat la vremea respectivă "România liberă", "Prahova", "Adevărul".

"Participa" la București

În februarie, IFES a organizat o masă rotundă cu reprezentanți ai ONG-ului "Participa" din Chile. Liderii ai unor ONG-uri românești au avut astfel ocazia de a se întâlni și discuta despre activitatea și succesele acestui ONG latino-american ce s-a dovedit o importantă forță politică în procesul de democratizare din Chile. Sperăm să beneficiem și în viitor de prezența unor astfel de organizații ce pot împărtăși din experiența lor celor interesați.

Reconciliere Națională

Împreună cu Fundația Soros pentru o Societate Deschisă, în perioada 3-4 iunie, IFES a sponsorizat la București o conferință intitulată "Reconciliere Națională". Titlul prezentării IFES la aceasta conferință a fost "Educație democratică și politica în cadrul ONG-urilor implicate în dezvoltarea societății civile". Peste 200 de persoane au participat la această conferință ce a durat 2 zile. Imagini de la aceasta conferință au fost difuzate de postul TV Antena 1. În cadrul conferinței, IFES a organizat și moderat o întâlnire la Casa Oamenilor de Știință, avându-și ca invitați pe Vladimir Tismăneanu (Universitatea din Maryland), Sorin Antohi (Universitatea din Michigan) și Mattei Dogan (Centrul Național Francez pentru Cercetare Științifică). Peste 70 de persoane au participat la această întâlnire, despre care a relatat și "România liberă".

Management financiar

IFES București a organizat pe 7 iunie, la sediul Grupului pentru Dialog Social, un atelier pe probleme de management financiar al ONG-urilor. La eveniment au participat peste 20 de persoane ce se ocupă de partea financiară în cadrul ONG-urilor pe care le reprezintă. Atelierul, condus de Brenda Courtney (Support Center International) și Melanie Griffiths (Fundația pentru Pluralism) a subliniat importanța unui bun management financiar ca o sursă de credibilitate în fața finanțatorilor precum și ca o metodă eficientă de control intern. Au fost discutate subiecte ca: întocmirea bugetului, expertiza contabilă, circuitul financiar etc. În încheierea atelierului, participanții și ziariștii de la Cotidianul au fost de acord în a declara că întâlnirea a fost o reușită și ea ar trebui repetată.

Dreptul la informație

La propunerea Serviciului pentru Informații al Statelor Unite (USIS) IFES a organizat la Grupul pentru Dialog Social o conferință a profesorului de jurnalism și comunicare, Laird Anderson de la American University. În fața unei audiențe formate din parlamentari, ziariști și membri ai comunității ONG, Laird Anderson a vorbit despre "Dreptul autorităților de a păstra secretul și dreptul publicului de a fi informat". TVR a prezentat în emisiunea de știri imagini de la aceasta conferință.

Seminar la Curtea de Argeș

Pe 15 aprilie IFES a participat la seminarul organizat la Curtea de Argeș de Environmental Training Project, proiect finanțat de USAID. În cadrul seminarului s-a discutat despre sectorul ONG și în special despre posibilitățile de colaborare, realizare de coaliții și acțiune legislativă comună a ONG-urilor din România. Au fost realizate interviuri despre importanța ONG-urilor în dezvoltarea societății civile, interviurile au fost difuzate de TVR, TV Sigma și postul local TV Benix.

Forum ecologic la Zlatna

Zlatna este cunoscută ca fiind una dintre cele mai poluate zone ale României, agenții poluanți fiind marile uzine din oras. Tocmai de aceea, la inițiativa ONG-ului ecologic Albamont din Alba Iulia, IFES a organizat pe 5 februarie la Zlatna un forum ecologic.

Întâlnirea a avut loc în clădirea Primăriei și a avut ca scop identificarea unei strategii comune pentru combaterea poluării în regiune. Au participat primari, parlamentari, oficialități medicale, secretarii de stat de la Ministerul Industriei și Mediului, lideri ONG și reporteri ai TVR.

Domnul Ioan Jeleu, secretar de stat la Ministerul Mediului a declarat presei că această întâlnire a adus față în față "conducerea uzinelor poluante și pe cei preocupați de protecția mediului într-o încercare de a găsi soluții și de a stimula implementarea lor."

La încheierea întâlnirii participanții au semnat o scrisoare deschisă adresată Președintelui, Parlamentului și Guvernului prin care se cerea statutul de zonă calamitată pentru Zlatna. Acest statut ar permite alocarea de fonduri speciale de la bugetul național pentru reducerea poluării în zona Zlatna. În plus, odată recunoscută ca zonă calamitată, guvernul României ar putea cere asistență și fonduri de la Comunitatea Europeană pentru combaterea poluării. Ca urmare a acestui forum de la Zlatna s-a obținut promisiunea a 2,8 miliarde lei ce vor fi alocate de la bugetul național pentru re tehnologizarea uzinelor poluante.

Activități curente și viitoare

În curs de desfășurare:

- editura americană Houghton Mifflin a donat (prin intermediul IFES) cărți BRIDGE-ului și CASP-ului pentru dotarea bibliotecilor respectivei organizații
- continuă dezvoltarea bazei de date a Centrului de Resurse
- staff-ul IFES a ajutat Prodemia, Master Forum, CASP și Academia Cațavencu în redactarea de proiecte înaintate principalelor organizații finanțatoare americane și europene
- IFES a publicat și va distribui peste 1000 de exemplare din broșura "Dezvoltarea Societății Civile" conținând cele șase "Cărți albe" realizate la forumul ONG de la Sinaia.

În viitor:

- 13 - 15 octombrie
- IFES va organiza la Kiev, Ucraina întâlnirea anuală a Asociației Administratorilor Electorali din Centrul și Estul Europei. Această întâlnire va include participanți din 16 țări din centrul și estul Europei (inclusiv din România) precum și experți internaționali din domeniul administrației electorale.

Dintre subiectele incluse în agenda întâlnirii menționăm: sistemele electorale din regiune, importanța educării electoratului în sistemele democratice, comparație între sistemul proporțional și sistemul majoritar, tehnologia alegerilor și importanța instruirii personalului administrativ implicat în procesul electoral.

Invitație

IFES lansează o invitație tuturor ONG-urilor românești sau internaționale de a vizita centrul nostru de resurse. Vă putem pune la dispoziție, pentru cercetare, un bogat material informativ incluzând: casete video, publicații, rapoarte ale seminariilor, cărți etc. Pentru informații suplimentare vă rugăm să contactați biroul IFES din București. Deasemenea este binevenit orice material pe care doriți să-l puneți la îndemâna Centrului de Resurse și, prin acesta, la îndemâna ONG-urilor.



Nevoia de informație

Dacă doriți să publicați în buletinul nostru informații despre persoane, programe sau activități legate de educație civică sau alte știri de interes general, vă rugăm să luați legătura cu Alexandra Caracoti la biroul IFES din București. Vom publica aceste materiale în următoarea ediție a "Vocii Civice".

Statistici din sectorul non-profit

Vă prezentăm câteva date uimitoare din sectorul non-profit:

- În fiecare din următoarele țări, considerate a fi printre cele mai dezvoltate din lume, Statele Unite, Japonia, Franța, Germania Italia și Marea Britanie, forța de muncă angajată în sectorul non-profit este de 7 ori mai mare decât forța de muncă angajată în cea mai mare companie privată din fiecare țară cum ar fi: General Motors, Hitachi, Renault, Volkswagen, Fiat sau Telecom-ul britanic. Sectorul non-profit este responsabil pentru unul din fiecare 20 de locuri de muncă și pentru unul din fiecare 8 locuri de muncă în domeniul serviciilor.
- Cheltuielile sectorului non-profit în aceste țări se cifrează la peste 600.000.000.000 \$ și reprezintă 5% din produsul intern brut al țării respective și este de 4 ori mai mare decât valoarea vânzărilor celei mai mari corporații din lume, General Motors.
- Sectorul non-profit este în continuă creștere. În țări precum Franța, Germania sau Statele Unite sectorul non-profit a furnizat 13% din locurile de muncă create între 1980 și 1990.
- Numai 10%, în medie, din veniturile sectorului non-profit provin din surse particulare. În Statele Unite, numai 20% din fonduri provin din surse particulare.
- Cea mai mare sursă de venituri pentru sectorul non-profit este formată din taxe și vânzări proprii urmată de sursele guvernamentale. Vânzările și taxele pe servicii furnizează aproximativ 47% din venituri iar sursele guvernamentale furnizează 43%. În Franța și Germania guvernul este sursa dominantă de fonduri pentru sectorul non-profit.
- Sursele particulare furnizează fonduri în principal pentru organizațiile ce oferă asistență internațională,

Date preluate din Proiectul comparativ asupra sectorului non-profit al Universității John Hopkins realizat de Lester M. Salamon și Helmut K. Anheier, intitulat "The Emerging Sector". Studiul include organizații neguvernamentale, non-profit, exclusiv organizațiile politice și religioase.



Pentru: Cititorii "Vocii Civice"
De la: Juliana Geran Pilon,
Director de Programe pentru Europa
Centrală și de Est, fosta Uniune
Sovietică și Asia

Eternal Emigrants

*We speak American
inside our hearts,
the grammar of conviction
and success,
the syntax of ends met,
and means to justify
our opportunities
to happiness pursued—
pursued forever naturally,
come what may—
but deep within our veins
runs one small river
from another spring
with sweetest melody
of fate and paradox*

Juliana Geran Pilon.

Am scris acest poem despre mine și despre alții ce s-au născut în America sau, asemenea mie, au emigrat acolo la începutul vieții, dar au un atașament puternic față de Europa de Est și față de România în special. Uneori, atunci când venim în România pentru a lucra cu ONG-urile suntem întrebați: "De ce sunteți interesați în asta? De ce ați venit la noi în țară?" Nu exista un răspuns simplu la aceste întrebări, dar m-am gândit ca acest poem se referă la aceste întrebări și încercă să ofere o explicație.

Pentru întrebări sau informații vă rugăm să contactați biroul IFES București:

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Vocea Civică

No. 3

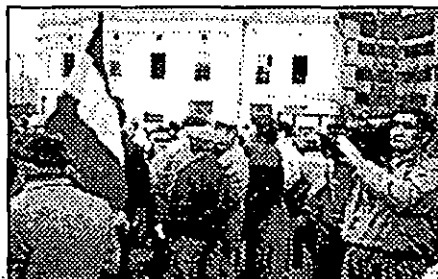
Martie 1995

Juliana Geran Pilon

ÎNTRE DOUĂ LUMI

Oricum ar numi analiștii politici evenimentele ce au avut loc în 1989-1990 în Centrul și Estul Europei și fosta Uniune Sovietică, de la "Revoluția de catifea" în Cehoslovacia, "Revoluția neterminată" în România, până la "lovitură de stat" în Rusia, părerea generală este că voturile acordate libertății au crescut. Sistemele electorale s-au adaptat pluralismului, înglobând noile partide în formare și permițând ca reprezentativitatea în noile legislaturi să se bazeze pe procentaje complexe pentru a reflecta, pe cât posibil, schimbările. Contextul larg, totuși, nu poate fi trecut cu vederea. Și din nefericire nu este în întregime dător de speranță.

Mai precis, idealurile clasice liberale născute în sec. XVIII ce au găsit teren favorabil dezvoltării lor în unele colțuri ale Europei de vest și Americii nu s-au răspândit la fel de larg și dincolo de Dunăre, chiar înainte de apariția comunismului. Acele principii politice au întâmpinat obstacole majore: dominație străină, corupție politică și o largă tradiție autoritară coruptă (în special în Balcani), pe care comunismul le-a exacerbato doar.



Buletin informativ
editat de
Proiectul
de Educație Civică
în România
al Fundației
Internaționale
pentru Sisteme
Electorale
(IFES)

De aceea, alegerile organizate în perioada imediat post-sovietică, au avut loc într-o cultură politică dominată de pasiune. Foarte rapid s-au constituit numeroase partide, adesea cu programe neclare și insuficient explicate și prezentate de mass media electronică, aflată sub control guvernamental și deci înclinată spre subiectivitate. Astfel "lămurit", electoratului i s-a cerut să-și exprime opțiunea politică. Candidații erau, de regulă, aleși prin complicate metode proporționale de alocare a succesului electoral în funcție de sistemul adoptat de cele mai multe ori într-o atmosferă de haos. Aceste sisteme se bazează mai puțin pe corectitudine și angajament democratic și mai mult pe o mixtură între tradiție și compromis politic. Câțiva ani mai târziu, cetățenii încă se întreabă: este oare acesta un progres sau nu?

Evident, este o greșeală să vorbești despre Europa Centrală și de Est ca și când ar fi vorba despre o regiune omogenă. Fiecare națiune a acestei arii complexe este unică și mândră de unicitatea ei. Cusiguranță însă, apar anumite modele de structuri democratice și sisteme electorale cu implicații în stabilitatea reformei și vigoarea civică viitoare. Tipul general adoptat este cel de reprezentare parlamentară proporțională, model foarte popular

Continuarea în pagina 4

Societatea Civilă Internațională

Între 30 ianuarie și 2 februarie, în St. Michael, Barbados, a avut loc conferința "Societatea Civilă Internațională". Acest eveniment, organizat de fundația Kettering, la a șaptea editie a sa, a reunit specialiști în științe politice preocupați de problemele societății civile cu liderii organizațiilor civice implicate direct în activitatea publică, de educație civică și de întărire a societății civile. Printre cei 40 de participanți s-au numărat liderii unor organizații cum ar fi: Participa (Chile), Poder Ciudadano (Argentina), Civicus (rețea mondială) din America Latină, experți americani ca David Mathews, președintele fundației Kettering, Harold Saunders, Bruce Sievers. Europa a fost reprezentată de lideri de organizații din Ungaria, Polonia, Rusia.

Din România, în absența doamnei Alina Inayeh a participat Dan Petrescu, coordonator de program IFES.

Agenda lucrărilor, foarte densă, a cuprins referate și discuții pe teme cum ar fi dezvoltarea economică și structurile societății civile, implicarea cetățenilor și a societății civile în dezvoltarea procesului politic, evoluția de la opinie publică la decizie, redefinirea relațiilor între cetățeni și autorități, depășirea polarizărilor politice și sociale prin intermediul societății civile, modele ideale de dezvoltare democratică a țărilor afectate de politici totalitare.

Din discuții au reieșit atât problemele și căile comune de rezolvare cât și diferențele specifice fiecărei țări, în funcție de tradiție și situația socio-

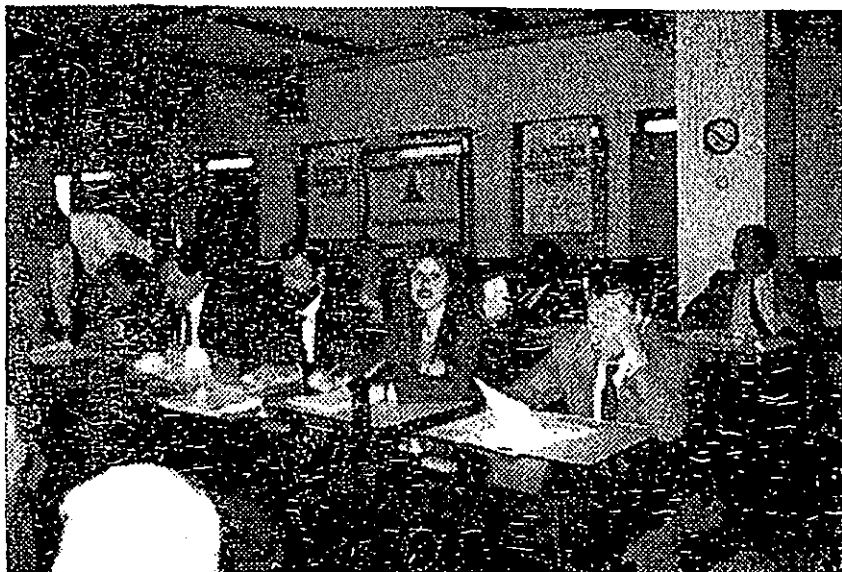
economică. Deși țări din America Latină și Europa au suferit regimuri totalitare, modul de democratizare și dezvoltare a societății civile și de implicare publică diferă. În același mod s-a accentuat faptul că organizațiile civice trebuie să găsească strategii de a încuraja participarea publică în viața cotidiană, nu în situații de criză, când participarea este imediată și spontană. Această participare publică, esențială unei societăți civile autentice, suferă actualmente datorită unui mediu în care individualismul exacerbă, situația economică precară și influența nu întotdeauna pozitivă a mass-media duce la alterarea sau înlocuirea unor valori tradiționale, care au stat la baza comunităților democratice. □

Parteneriat regional

Încă de anul trecut IFES București participă cu statut de observator în proiectul "Societatea Civilă" al organizației European Foundation Centre (Bruxelles). Proiectul presupune realizarea unei rețele regionale (Europa Centrală și de Est) a Centrelor de Informații și Resurse pentru ONG-uri.

Premiza de la care se pleacă în realizarea acestui proiect este că țările din zonă moștenesc, deși cu grade de manifestare diferite, la nivelul societății civile, aceleași probleme - reminiscențe ale epocii comuniste.

Împărtășind experiența, ONG-urile din zonă pot pune bazele unei colaborări eficiente și reciproc avantajoase. Condiția esențială pentru relațiile de parteneriat regional este o mai bună circulație a informației între organizațiile și asociațiile din țările Europei Centrale și de Est. Este tocmai ceea ce își propune acest proiect: crearea cadrului necesar pentru o mai bună comunicare. Organizațiilor interesate, IFES București, prin participarea la această rețea, le poate facilita contactul sau obținerea de informații de la celelalte centre participante la acest program. □



Întâlnirea participanților la proiectul "Societatea Civilă" - Bruxelles, iunie 1994

FORUM ONG - 1995

Răspunzând invitației făcute de IFES București, reprezentanți a peste 20 de organizații neguvernamentale s-au întâlnit pe 24 martie la sediul Grupului pentru Dialog Social. Scopul întâlnirii a fost organizarea și pregătirea Forumului Organizațiilor Neguvernamentale, ce va fi organizat de IFES la sfârșitul lunii aprilie a acestui an. S-a discutat despre scopul Forumului - realizarea cărților albe pe domenii de ONG-uri, despre agendă, organizații participante, lectori.

Dintre sugestiile mai importante amintim doar:

- redactarea "Cărților Albe" pe baza unei grile pentru a evita discrepanțele între genurile de informație cuprinse în cele 6 cărți albe. Grila a fost concepută deja de un grup de specialiști și va fi pusă la dispoziția colectivelor de redactare a cărților albe.



FORUM

- propunerea ca organizațiile participante la Forum să-și distribuie cu această ocazie Rapoartele Anuale de Activitate pe 1994, ce ar contribui la îmbunătățirea fluxului comunicațional în sectorul ONG. Aceste rapoarte ar

putea fi elaborate tot pe baza unei grile (ce a fost concepută deja).

Putem pune această grilă la dispoziția tuturor organizațiilor interesate să o consulte sau să o utilizeze. □

Seminar internațional la Chișinău

"Standardele modernizării pentru administrația locală și de stat" a fost titlul seminarului organizat de IFES Moldova în perioada 27-28 ianuarie 1995. La seminar au participat aproximativ 70 de persoane reprezentând Academia de Studii Administrative, Secția pentru Administrație Publică Locală a Guvernului Republicii Moldova, Judecătoria Supremă, secțiile specializate ale instituțiilor de învățământ superior, organele puterii locale din toate raioanele Republicii Moldova, diverse formațiuni politice. Au fost invitați experți din Franța, Italia și Rusia. Principalele teme dezbătute pe parcursul seminarului au fost:

- Alegerile locale ca formă de exercitare a principiilor autoadministrării locale;
- Constituirea cadrului juridic pentru dezvoltarea administrației publice;
- Mecanismele auto-administrării locale într-un stat descentralizat.

Concluziile seminarului au fost:

- Organizarea teritorial administrativă a Republicii Moldova în 40 de raioane și 4 municipii nu poate asigura autonomia lor economică, lăsând prea mult spațiu pentru intervenția statului.

Conferința Fundațiilor - Londra

Între 7 și 9 noiembrie 1994 a avut loc la Londra conferința anuală organizată de "European Foundation Centre" la care a participat și IFES București. Conferința, intitulată: "Fundații pentru Europa - Finanțare pentru Solidaritate" a reunit aproximativ 200 de reprezentanți ai organizațiilor finanțatoare din întreaga lume, cum ar fi: Charles Stuart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Soros Foundation for an Open Society, Charity Know How Fund, Charity Aid Foundation, Wellcome Trust, ca să amintim numai câteva dintre ele.

Scopul declarat al întâlnirii a fost dezvoltarea și consolidarea relațiilor între finanțatori și potențiali recipienți ai finanțării - în special cu organizații neguvernamentale din țările Europei de Est, confruntate acum cu dificultățile inerente unei perioade de tranziție de la comunism la democrație.

Tocmai de aceea, discuțiile s-au axat în special pe problema finanțării: implicațiile pe termen lung ale cadrului fiscal și legislativ referitor la sursele private de finanțare, strategii și direcții de finanțare, creșterea rolului parteneriatului în sectorul finanțator privat, în condițiile în care ponderea finanțării publice guvernamentale scade progresiv. La nivel informal, conferința a dat ocazia organizațiilor est-europene de a se întâlni nu numai cu finanțatorii, dar și între ele, și de a pune bazele unor acțiuni comune de parteneriat în cadrul regiunii. □

- Legea despre administrația publică locală (prin articolele ce prevăd numirea de către Președintele Republicii a primarilor municipiilor și președinților comitetelor executive raionale) vine în contradicție cu prevederile Constituției, care afirmă eligibilitatea autorităților administrației locale.

În general, legislația referitoare la administrația publică locală nu poate

fi calificată univoc, deoarece, cu excepția celor mai contestate articole, corespunde standardelor moderne.

- Neparticiparea unor formațiuni politice la alegeri pe motiv că legile respective nu corespund pe deplin standardelor internaționale este o greșală, care poate duce la autoizolarea acestor partide. □

ÎN TRE DOUĂ LUMI

în țările Europei continentale, mai curând decât în Marea Britanie sau Statele Unite. Dacă acest sistem prezintă avantaje clare în cazul partidelor mici, în formare, există însă și dezavantaje. Dintre cele mai importante putem aminti: fragmentarea scenei politice, neclaritatea relației dintre cetățeni și reprezentanții lor aleși, și, nu în ultimul rând, menținerea unui proces electoral dezordonat și rău-prevestitor pentru renașterea societății civile - fundamentul societății democratice stabile. O astfel de stabilitate este o condiție necesară, chiar dacă nu și suficientă, pentru pace în regiune.

Aceste sisteme sunt adesea nu numai demoralizant de greu de înțeles și aplicat dar sunt și percepute ca necorespunzătoare nevoilor și intereselor populare. Rezultatul este că cetățenii, deja sceptici în privința alegerilor - obișnuiți fiind cu simulacrul din perioada dictaturii comuniste, își întorc fața de la democrație însăși. În afara votului există puține căi de reformă pe care electoratul le poate explora. Ca un singur exemplu, adeseori nu există comisii electorale permanente și independente cărora cetățeanul să le poată adresa plângerile și sugestiile sale.

Dintre nemulțumiri, prima este aceea că alegerea candidaților pe liste duce la alegerea unor persoane adesea necunoscute, ce uneori nici măcar nu locuiesc în circumscripția pe care o reprezintă. Avantajul votării pentru partide, și deci pentru idei politice și nu pentru candidați - ce adeseori nu au beneficiat de suficienți bani sau spațiu în mass media pentru a-și face campanie - este anulat de faptul că cetățenii nu sunt convinși că interesele lor pot fi reprezentate de legislatorii aleși prin liste și care de cele mai multe ori nici nu comunică cu cei care i-au ales. Într-adevăr, oficialitățile alese nu sunt, de cele mai multe ori, nici măcar conștiente că trebuie să se angajeze într-o astfel de activitate de dialog. Pe de altă parte, nici cetățenii nu realizează că au un drept suprem - și o datorie civică - de a cere socoteală reprezentanților lor aleși. Guvernele sunt constituite de popor, pentru

popor, și nu în ciuda poporului sau împotriva acestuia. Din această cauză, Fundația Internațională pentru Sisteme Electorale (IFES), finanțată de Agenția Statelor Unite pentru Dezvoltare Internațională (USAID) depune eforturi pentru promovarea dialogului între parlamentari și cetățeni. Mai este însă mult de făcut. În al doilea rând, sistemul ce permite partidelor mici să fie reprezentate în forul legislativ a condus la apariția partidelor etnice în Europa Centrală și de Est (partide armenice, ale romilor, ale turcilor, etc.), ceea ce contribuie la creșterea divizării și a conflictului mai curând decât la promovarea unității și a unei atitudini anti-discriminare. Aceasta în vreme ce un sistem bipartit stimulează crearea de coaliții și compromisul.

În al treilea rând, unele opțiuni electorale nu sunt înțelese cum ar trebui. De exemplu, scepticismul considerabil manifestat față de scheme federaliste - în parte ca o reacție la falsul "federalism" al fostelor regimuri totalitare. Și totuși există un interes crescând pentru metodele descentralizate de autogovernare. Nuar trebui să surprindă pe nimeni faptul că, obosiți, cetățenii Europei Centrale și de Est oftează cu nostalgie acum după o soluție rapidă, un guvern autoritar care să pună capăt la ceea ce ei percep a fi un cerc, incapabil de a răspunde provocărilor extrem de dureroasei tranziții de la economia planificată la economia de piață.

Pentru ușurarea tranziției de la comunism la democrație, Vestul nu poate face mare lucru. Ar putea dura ani, chiar zeci de ani... Și totuși există, ca un exemplu, experiența comună a țărilor vestice, cu varietatea lor de sisteme electorale și experimente în structuri federaliste. Țările Europei Centrale și de Est se zbat încă în căutarea celei mai bune formule politice, iar noile puteri ajutate în această căutare.

Dincolo de politică, experiența vestică în construirea unei societăți civile este, de asemenea, interesantă. Constelația organizațiilor neguvernamentale, dinamismul sectorului

voluntar, spectrul larg al asociațiilor și grupărilor ce se ocupă de nevoi și interese speciale, prezintă un tablou al umanismului și a libertății în căutarea fericirii, neobstrucționate de constrângeri guvernamentale. Simpla menționare a acestei activități este înviorătoare; explicarea bazei sale teoretice subliniază relevanța sa universală.

În anii '60, un cântec foarte popular anunța zorii unei noi ere. Numele era magnific: *Era Acvatică*, iar melodia avea o armonie simplă și subliminală. Numele aducea în minte imagini de frumusețe acvatică, mister, înțelepciune astrologică. Cultura de acum două decenii părea să fi abandonat încrederea în legile omenești și în ordinea justiției liberale. În mod paradoxal, Europa de Est pare a fi gata să accepte că se află în zorii aceleiași ere ciudate - *Era Acvatică*. Și ei au devenit în multe privințe cinici și incapabili să accepte, sau cel puțin să înțeleagă rățiunea care guvernează democrațiile vestice. Spre deosebire însă de America anilor '60, fragilele națiuni post-comuniste ale Europei de Est nu dispun de un puternic cadru constituțional și de un sector privat dinamic, factori ce nu au permis modului acesta de a gândi să conducă la disperare și haos. Din păcate, Europa de Est se află chiar pe marginea abisului. Structurile ei liberale sunt subțiri ca hârtia. Un val puternic ar fi suficient pentru a le dărâma ca pe un castel de nisip.

Dacă "educație civică" este numele pentru ceea ce societatea vestică poate oferi, ca exemplu și cunoștințe teoretice, atunci s-o numim așa. Cu alte cuvinte, putem ajuta noile democrații în formare să vadă, în *Era lor Acvatică*, răsăritul speranței, încrederii și energiei. Acest lucru, simplu într-un sistem politic bazat pe Rațiune - torța călăuzitoare a Iluminismului, ce a inspirat nașterea Statelor Unite - este posibil numai dacă supremația sa este recunoscută de toți. Numai atunci drepturile vor fi respectate. □

Seminar IFES la Focșani

În cooperare cu "Uniunea Vranceenilor de Pretutindeni", IFES București a organizat la Focșani, pe 10-11 februarie, seminarul intitulat "Tineretul și Societatea Civilă Românească".

La lucrările seminarului au participat aproximativ 45 de persoane - reprezentanți ai unor organizații neguvernamentale, ai administrației locale și ai executivului, membri ai unor partide politice și ziariști din presa locală.

Temele de discuție au inclus: problematica tineretului în perioada actuală, rolul Ministerului de resort în sprijinirea organizațiilor de tineret, societatea civilă, importanța religiei în educarea tinerilor, accesul cetățenilor la procesul legislativ, modalități de implicare activă în rezolvarea problemelor comunității. Ceea ce a asigurat însă reușita acestui seminar a fost participarea largă a tinerilor (cărora le era de altfel și destinat), elevi, studenți, reprezentanți ai unor organizații de tineret locale. Această participare a fost una de substanță și nu doar decorativă, tinerii



dovedind, prin intervențiile și întrebările lor nu numai o cunoaștere temeinică a principiilor fundamentale ale unei societăți democratice dar și o dorință reală de a se implica mai mult și de a juca un rol activ în soluționarea problemelor ce-i frământă.

Prin grija organizatorului local "Uniunea Vranceenilor de Pretutindeni", lucrările seminarului au fost filmate în vederea realizării unui film documentar. Deasemenea, ziariștii prezenți au relatat în presa locală (scrisă și audiovizuală) despre acest eveniment. □

Comisie Electorală Centrală Permanentă

Întâlnirea organizată de IFES București pentru discutarea sistemului electoral românesc a avut loc pe 29 - 30 octombrie 1994, la sediul Grupului pentru Dialog Social. Audiența a fost restrânsă la specialiști (avocați, judecători), parlamentari, reprezentanți ai unor organizații neguvernamentale interesate în reforma sistemului electoral. Urmare a acestei întâlniri a fost constituit un grup de lucru pentru elaborarea unui proiect privind înființarea unei Comisii Electorale Centrale Permanente.

Acest proiect a fost depus pe 23 februarie la Biroul Permanent al Camerei Deputaților de către deputații Victor Babiuc (P.D.), Alexandru Athanasie (P.A.C.) și Călin Anastasiu (P.L. 93). Pentru prezentarea proiectului, IFES București a organizat pe 27 februarie o conferință de presă. Autorii proiectului, împreună cu Dorin Tudoran (Director IFES pentru România și Moldova) au răspuns la întrebările puse de ziariști în cadrul acestei conferințe de presă. Presa - scrisă și audiovizuală - a relatat pe larg despre această inițiativă legislativă. □

Organizațiile neguvernamentale și problemele comunității

Municipiul Târgoviște a fost, pe 17-18 noiembrie 1994, gazda unui seminar organizat de IFES, la propunerea filialei SIRDO și a CNSRL-Frăția. Intitulat "Societatea civilă - Crearea structurilor civice, legislative și politice specifice democrației", seminarul s-a bucurat de o largă audiență (aproximativ 45 de persoane) reprezentând organizații neguvernamentale, administrație locală, sindicate, partide politice și presa locală. Principalele teme abordate au fost: responsabilitatea civică, rolul ONG-urilor în societate, accesul cetățenilor la procesul legislativ,

supremația legii, rolul partidelor politice în dezvoltarea societății civile.

A fost distribuit participanților un bogat material informativ: cărți și broșuri, și au fost prezentate mai multe filme documentare.

Succesul acestei acțiuni a fost dat însă de ultima sesiune, în care participanții au fost rugați să se implice într-un exercitiu de aplicare practică a conceptelor discutate. Împărțiți în mai multe grupuri, ei au lucrat pentru a identifica problemele importante cu care se confruntă orașul și a elabora strategii de

rezolvare a acestor probleme. De menționat este faptul că numeroși participanți au considerat că lipsa ONG-urilor în Târgoviște (există doar două astfel de organizații în oraș) este o problemă importantă a comunității și au indicat înființarea de ONG-uri ca cea mai bună metodă pentru stimularea implicării cetățenilor în rezolvarea problemelor locale. Ziarele locale "Jurnalul de Dâmbovița", "Legea lui Tepeș" și "Jurnalul de Târgoviște" au publicat articole referitoare la acest eveniment și interviuri cu Dorin Tudoran, director de proiect IFES. □

Acțiuni viitoare ale sectorului ONG

- La sfârșitul lunii martie IFES organizează la Alexandria, în colaborare cu clubul Pro Democrația, un seminar pentru liderii societății civile.
- Ediția de anul acesta a Forumului ONG (organizat de IFES) va avea loc în ultima săptămână a lunii aprilie. Vor participa aproximativ 60 de reprezentanți ai unor ONG-uri din domeniile: civic, ecologic, tineret, drepturilor omului, economic și mass-media. Vor fi realizate "Cărți albe" pe aceste domenii.
- IFES București va organiza, în colaborare cu autorii proiectului pentru înființarea Comisiei Electorale Permanente, întâlniri cu parlamentari și ziariști pentru prezentarea și dezbateră proiectului.
- Sistemul electoral constituie o preocupare și pentru Pro Democrația, care intenționează să demareze o campanie pentru schimbarea sistemului electoral în România și va desfășura o largă acțiune de informare cu privire la sistemele electorale practicate în diferite țări prin editare de cărți destinate oamenilor politici și pliante destinate cetățenilor.
- Asociația Master Forum în colaborare cu Pro Democrația, cu sprijinul financiar acordat de programul PHARE, vor înființa anul acesta încă 20 de Consilii Locale ale Copiilor în diferite localități din țară.
- Asociația Pro Democrația va dezvolta programul "Dialog" - implicarea cetățenilor în administrația locală - în localitățile: Brașov, Sibiu, Alexandria, Focșani, Miercurea Ciuc și Reșița.
- "Forumuri Deliberative" este numele unui interesant program pe care tot Pro Democrația îl va derula în toate localitățile din țară în care asociația are cluburi.
- În luna martie a acestui an ICMA (Asociația Internațională pentru Management Urban și Regional) va organiza la Brașov un seminar pentru asociații condomeniale.
- La Oradea, în luna aprilie, va avea loc seminarul "Infrastructura Urbană" organizat de ICMA. Seminarul se adresează directorilor de regii, directorilor economici și tehnici din primării precum și altor reprezentanți ai administrației publice locale.

Profil ICMA

ICMA este Asociația Internațională pentru Management Urban și Regional. Începând din anul 1993, programele pentru administrația locală finanțate de USAID în România sunt dezvoltate de ICMA, coordonatorul acestei organizații fiind domnul Bob Dubinsky. Din luna mai 1994, ICMA are un birou în București, iar directorul pentru România este Gabriela Matei.

Programele ICMA sunt destinate încurajării dialogului între nivelele administrației publice centrale și locale pentru promovarea reformei în vederea descentralizării și creșterii autonomiei locale. Ele constau și în asistență tehnică directă la nivel local în domeniile prioritare.

Activitățile sunt în prezent dezvoltate în orașele: Brașov, Craiova, Oradea, Piatra Neamț, Constanța și Focșani, iar domeniile specifice de consultanță sunt: îmbunătățirea activității financiare municipale, îmbunătățirea infrastructurii tehnico-edilitare urbane, strategia informatizării administrației publice locale, implementarea asociațiilor condomeniale.

ICMA colaborează cu Federația Municipalităților din România și cu Asociația Președinților de Consilii Județene, iar în viitor sperăm să avem colaborări și cu alți parteneri interesați.

Ne puteți contacta la tel./fax 659 7436 sau 311 2138 sau prin E-mail gabi@icma.sfos.ro.

Invitație

IFES lansează o invitație tuturor ONG-urilor românești sau internaționale de a vizita centrul nostru de resurse. Vă putem pune la dispoziție, pentru cercetare, un bogat material informativ incluzând: casete video, publicații, rapoarte ale seminariilor, cărți etc. Pentru informații suplimentare, vă rugăm să contactați biroul IFES din București. De asemenea este binevenit orice material pe care doriți să-l puneți la îndemâna Centrului de Resurse și, prin aceasta, la îndemâna ONG-urilor.

Nevoia de informație

Dacă doriți să publicați în buletinul nostru informații despre persoane, programe sau activități legate de educație civică sau alte știri de interes general, vă rugăm să luați legătura cu Alexandra Caracoti la biroul IFES din București. Vom publica aceste materiale în următoarea ediție a "Vocii Civice".



Pentru întrebări sau informații vă rugăm să contactați biroul IFES București:

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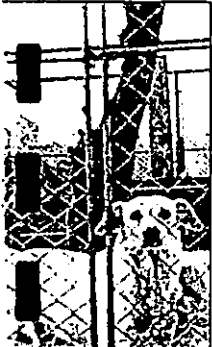
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...pagina 7

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CAMERA DEPUTAȚILOR
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29/02/1996

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De la

Ioana Borocan

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Toate lucrările enumerate mai sus reprezintă o sursă documentară deosebit de
importantă și actuală pentru activitatea ce se desfășoară în cadrul Camerei
Deputaților.

Îmi exprim convingerea că vom continua și pe viitor colaborarea noastră.

Cu stimă , Ioana Borocan

Prefectura județului Maramureș
nr. 4106 din 14.05.1996

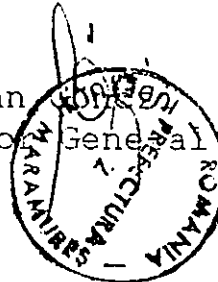
Stimați domni,

Vă confirmăm primirea buletinului dumneavoastră
INFO-ONG nr. 2 din februarie-martie 1996 și vă
mulțumim pentru amabilitate și pentru atenția pe care
o acordați instituției noastre.

Apreciem conținutul interesant al publicației și
așteptăm cu interes numerele următoare.

Cu stimă,

Ștefan
Director General



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Stimate Domnule Dan Petrescu,

Împreună cu Dvs. AIESEC (Asociația Internațională a Studenților în Economie și Management) a reușit să realizeze multiplicarea materialelor necesare desfășurării în condiții cât mai bune a seminarului National Training Seminar. Acesta se află la cea de-a treia ediție și are ca scop educarea membrilor asociației noastre. Pentru prima dată, în cadrul acestui seminar vor fi susținute cursuri și pentru membrii altor asociații non-guvernamentale din România.

Mulțumindu-vă și pe această cale pentru sprijinul acordat de Dvs, sperăm într-o intensificare a relațiilor dintre cele două asociații.

Cu stimă,

Oana Stăvarache

Responsabil Financiar
National Training Seminar

11 November, 1996

Mr. Dan Petrescu
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Dear Dan and Carmen,

Thank you very much for all your kindness and for doing such and efficient and well organized job for us. The selection of people and the agency were excellent. I would like to stress that I.G.S. Management have shown a very high level of professionalism and that Mr Gabriel Manuchian did his job efficiently and correctly.

I need hardly say that I share all hopes which have arisen after these last elections. The work with which your office contributed has been worth the effort, congratulations!

Do keep in touch for future co-operation.

With best regards



Tanja Petovar
Senior Executive

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Piatra-Neamț, 9 ianuarie 1997

Dragi prieteni,

Intrucât la vremea respectivă nu am reușit să vă transmitem urările „sărbătorești” de
nigoare, profităm acum, chiar dacă puțin mai târziu, dar cu aceeași considerație, să vă
dorm din toată inima un An Nou plin de lucruri frumoase, de bucurii și mai ales multe
realizări!!!

Vă mulțumim pentru noul număr din „Info ONG” și ne grăbim să vă expediem și
chestionarul pentru Top ONG '96.

Sper că vom reuși să trimitem la timp și eventualele sugestii pentru Forumul
Organizațiilor Neguvernamentale din acest an, felicitându-vă totodată pentru reînnoirea
acestei inițiative.

Cu prietenie,

Mihaela Dudău



Secretar Principal



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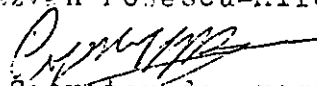
Stimati colegi,

In primul rind dorim sa va transmitem cele mai bune urari cu ocazia Noului An 1997 si succes deplin in nobile misiune ce o indepliniti.

Dorim in aceeaasi masura sa va comunicam faptul ca suntem anorati de modul in care este facuta prezentarea Societatii de Explorari Oceanografica si Protectie a Mediului Marin Oceanic-Club, in paginile revistei dumneavoastra. Avem , insa , de facut si o mica precizare, si anume este vorba despre adresa e-Mail publicata ca fiind a noastra la pagina 45 (revista nr.6/1996 octombrie-decembrie), dar care este gresita, cea reala fiind: paul@lmct.sfos.ro.

Incheiem aici adresindu-va cordialele noastre salutari de la tarmul Marii Negre.

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Revista a Organizațiilor Neguvernamentale din România

Editată de CENTRAS

Finanțată de: PHARE/TACIS Pentru Democrație

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

German Marshall Fund



Tehnoredactarea, designul, prelucrarea fotografiilor și grafica
au fost realizate de echipa asociației JUNIOR

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Publicație realizată cu sprijinul tipografiei Tipo AKTIS



Info

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Anul II
Numărul 4-5
mai-iunie 1997



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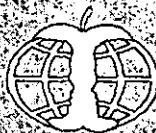
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Editată de CENTRAS și Asociația JUNIOR

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IFES Civic Education Project, 1994-1996
Final Activity Report
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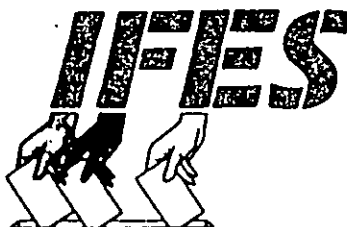
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FORUMUL ORGANIZAȚIILOR NEGUVERNAMENTALE DIN ROMÂNIA

SINAIA, 24-29 MARTIE 1994

DEZVOLTAREA SOCIETĂȚII CIVILE



BUCUREȘTI
ROMANIA
1994



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**ROMANIAN
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
FORUM**

BRAȘOV, APRIL 30 – MAY 3, 1995

DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CIVIL SOCIETY

BUCUREȘTI
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BRAȘOV, 30 APRILIE – 3 MAI 1995

DEZVOLTAREA SOCIETĂȚII CIVILE

**BUCUREȘTI
ROMANIA
1995**

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Bucharest, June 1996

Romanian Non-Governmental Organizations Forum

"Development of the Civil Society"

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**Development of
the Civil Society**

**Romanian
Non-Governmental
Organizations Forum**

Bucharest, June 1997

e event was made possible by the generous contributions of:

Asociația Ecumenică a Bisericilor din România - AIDROM

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Fundația Pentru Dezvoltarea Societății Civile

Ford Foundation & Government of Austria - SOCO

German Marshall Fund of the US

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FORUM'97

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The NGO Forum in Romania was not a summit!

"If you want, you can – this is what an aphorism says. Before pointing to the obstacles in our way, we should see those we ourselves planted around us. If we diminish the latter, by means of experience, good quality efforts and the ability to send a coherent message – we implicitly cut the number of hindrances that artificially embarrass our work.

If we become more credible to those we want as partners, this should be a goal of our daily activities. They will understand that the time of friendly rhetoric is past, and the moment has come to sign a contract with civil society. Honoring this partnership will oblige both parties to more rigorous moves and more responsibility in meeting their attributions."

(Dorin Tudoran – president of the CENTRAS Foundation)

120 non-governmental organizations, more than 200 personalities of the not-for-profit sector, representatives of the authorities and of the political scene met in Bucharest early in June, in the Parliament Palace, to take part in the annual NGO Forum. As usual in the past four years, the main goal of this meeting was to identify and debate the issue of civil society development in Romania.

By the quality and importance of the debated topics, the event managed to catch the attention of important Romanian politicians, even if the media did not cover it properly.

In the message to the Forum, rendered by the state counselor for the relation with the NGO's, Mrs. Luminita Petrescu, Romanian president Emil Constantinescu said:

"Today, facts undoubtedly show that there is a new role and a new dimension for civil society and the organizations representing it ... Nothing more natural for any society to have categories of people sharing the same interests and aspirations, that can only be fulfilled through an organized and well oriented promotion."

More often than not, carried away by rhetoric, we keep relying on beautiful words, and overlook the essential. I think we must make it clear that these NGO's are no longer attached to the governmental institutions. They are not only some simple important means of synchronizing with the spirit and practice of the advanced civil societies, and they do not only function to grease the squeaking joints of the governmental institutions."

The message to the Forum rendered by government counselor Mihai Hanagic on behalf of Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea completed the image of the new development perspectives of the not-for-profit sector in Romania:

"The government intends to set up consultative groups to the Prime Minister and the ministers, made up of representatives of the NGO's and the government, in order to assess and promote the partnership between the two sectors.

The Bureau for NGO relations is in the making that will directly report to the Prime minister and its main goal will be to promote the government's policy regarding the Government – NGO's partnership."

The openness showed by the messages transmitted by the current rulers of the

country, both during the election campaign and at the Forum, laid the foundation of new perspectives in approaching the issues of civil society development. As a result of this change, the topics forwarded by the Forum's organization committee, coordinated by the CENTRAS foundation, had as a starting point a series of fundamental issues whose solutions directly influence the development of the not-for-profit sector in Romania: is there a community vocation of the NGO's? Where and how does it materialize? Can we talk about a role of the NGO's in the international politics? Is the activity of the organizations triggered by the needs of the beneficiaries or the funders' interests? Who are those working in the not-for-profit organizations? What are their motivations? How does the general public perceive the not-for-profit structures? What about the ruling structures? What are the cooperation premises between the NGO's and the government?

Thus, this year's NGO Forum was a attempt at identifying the necessary resources for emerging out of the identity crisis many Romanian associative structures!

Along the plenum debates on the updating the legislation concerning the organization and functioning of the NGO's, the activity based workshops were an important part in the Forum. The White Papers on main activity sectors of the associative structures (consultancy and training centers, civic, cultural, economic development, human rights, funders and donors, environment, social and youth) that follow are based on the conclusions reached by of the ten workshops.

Alexandru Cio

IFES Civic Education Project, 1994-1996
Final Activity Report
November 1997

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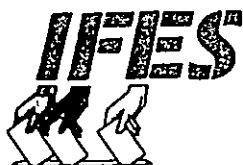
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al Fundației Internaționale pentru Sisteme Electorale (SUA)
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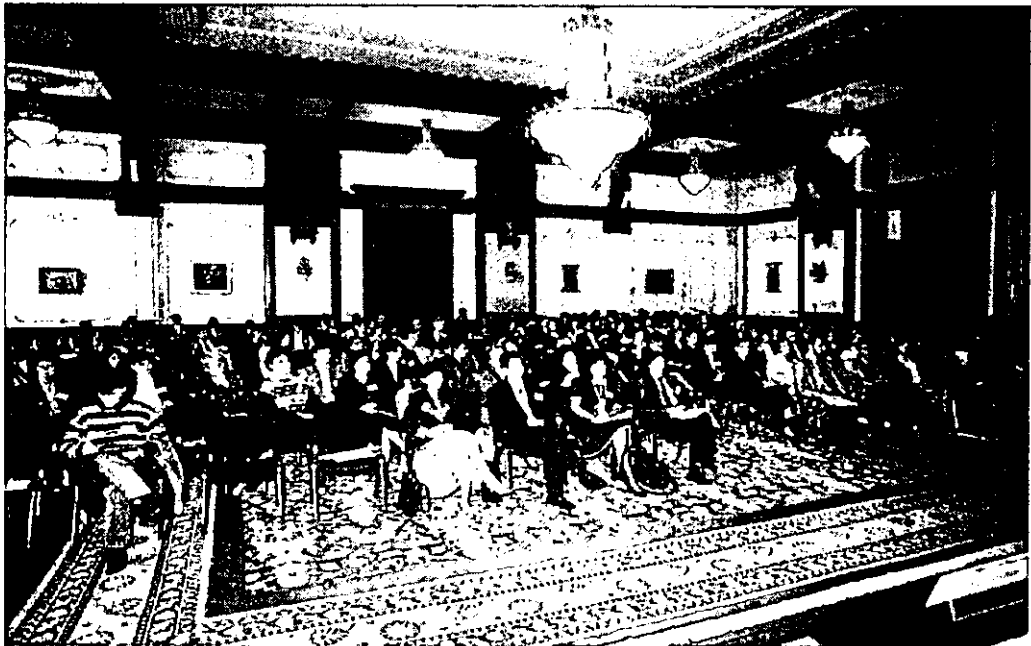
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A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY



NGO FORUM 1997



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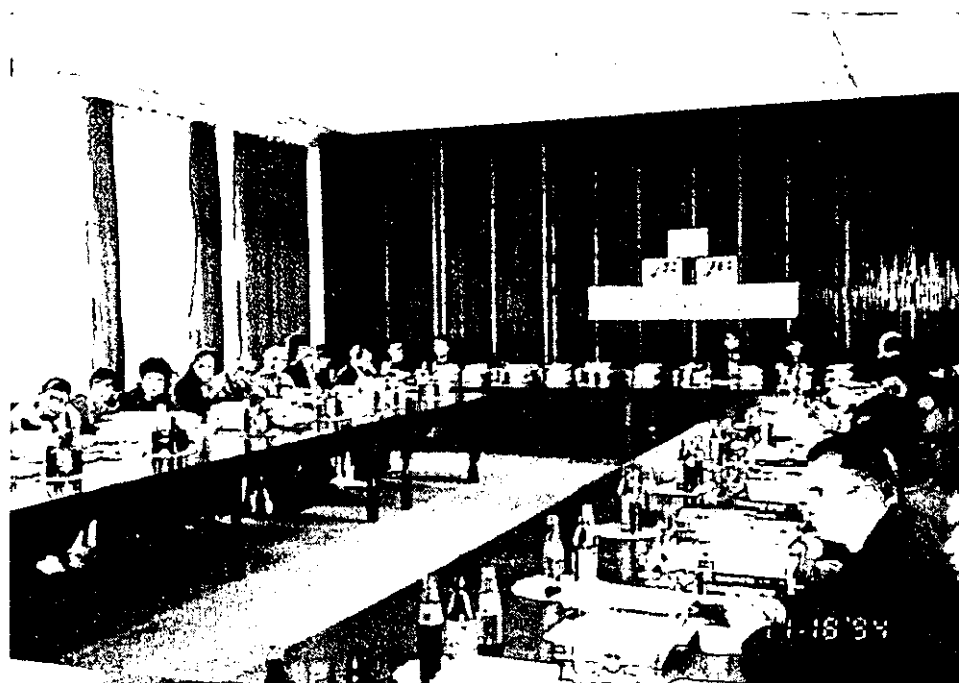
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