

Democracy Network Program

The Democracy Network Program (DNP) was announced by President Clinton in Prague in January 1994 as a three-year, \$30 million program to reinforce the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). It strengthens non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 11 CEE countries in the fields of democracy-building, economic development, environment, and social safety nets. The DNP program has been operational since early 1995. Participating countries include Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, FYR Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. DNP has three components:

- **Intensive training, technical assistance and small grants programs** in each country, serving indigenous NGO communities. In each country, a U.S. NGO grantee administers these activities. To date, more than 240 indigenous NGOs across the CEE region have received small grants through DNP.
- **A regional networking component** through a U.S. grantee, the National Forum Foundation (NFF), to coordinate the 11 in-country programs and facilitate communication and collaboration among NGOs throughout Central and Eastern Europe. NFF activities include cross-border internships and U.S. training for staff of local NGOs; workshops addressing specialized needs of local NGOs; provision of U.S. volunteer workers to assist with training of NGOs; a computerized NGO database accessible across the region, and a quarterly newsletter.
- **A legal component** through a U.S. grantee, the International Center for Non-Profit Law (ICNL), to assess legislation governing the non-profit sectors in DNP countries, and promote changes in legislation to benefit NGOs. Two examples of ICNL activity to date: in Slovakia, in response to ICNL's technical comments, the Slovak government redrafted an NGO law to make it more consistent with international norms. In Estonia, ICNL worked closely with the government and parliament to develop two new NGO laws enacted in late 1995.

Most on-the-ground DNP activities focus on public policy-oriented NGOs, including think tanks, human rights groups, environmental advocacy groups, and media organizations. For example, in the Czech Republic, an NGO called The Children of the Earth used a small grant to run a public education and media campaign that halted the building of an incinerator which would have harmed the local environment. In another example, an Albanian woman drew on her experience as an intern in the U.S. to mobilize her NGO, also a small grant recipient, to monitor and draw international attention to the recent elections in Albania. Through such activities, the DNP is promoting the NGO sector as a mechanism for citizens in Central and Eastern Europe to enter the public policy arena.

Democracy Network Program Romania

Romanian NGOs have been at the forefront of efforts to encourage voter participation and fair elections, in the cultural and educational life of the country, and in meeting social service needs. However, financial resources for NGOs are few, and progress is often impeded by government red tape, difficulty in communications, and conflicting goals (especially among the ethnic-centered groups which constitute a large proportion of the total).

The Democracy Network grantee in Romania, World Learning, has identified 140 NGOs which pre-qualified for DemNet support. These NGOs have met certain criteria established by World Learning, including a strong public policy orientation, the existence of a democratic management structure, and a willingness to collaborate with other NGOs, government entities, and/or private enterprises. Over the past year, World Learning held training seminars which have strengthened institutional capacity and improved national and local government dialogue with the NGO community. These seminars were conducted for qualified NGOs prior to awarding any subgrants, and consequently, World Learning has nominated only four NGOs for grant awards, which await formal Democracy Commission/USAID approval.

(LIST OF GRANT AWARDS NOT FORMALLY APPROVED SO NOT YET PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE)

- Clubul "Piatra Altarului", \$8,700 to complete an environmental awareness campaign on the Apuseni Mountains;
- Asociatia Pentru Apararea Drepturilor Omului in Romania-Comitetul Helsinki (Helsinki Watch), \$58,157 to develop institutional capacities;
- Fundatia Oamenilor de Afaceri-Constanta, \$11,097 for equipment to develop service delivery capability; and
- Asociatia Societatilor cu Capital Privat de Industrializarea Carnii, \$1,998 for computer equipment to improve communications and better represent the interests of its membership in the development of public policy.

The NGO sector in Romania is governed by a 1924 law which was never repealed during the Communist era. This law has provided Romanian NGOs with a basic legal framework within which they can operate. On the other hand, the law is obsolete in several important respects, and its very existence has impeded revitalization of the legal framework in Romania. For example, in order for a group to be registered as an NGO, it must receive approval from the appropriate ministry, thereby subjecting its approval to administrative discretion. While most NGOs have not encountered problems, there have been isolated cases in which a

group did not receive approval.

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is working with the Romanian NGO CENTRAS to upgrade the fundamental legal system governing the NGO sector. On June 27, 1996 a meeting was held in Bucharest to discuss a new draft law that is being prepared.

ICNL has also been working with groups in Romania on projects relating to the development of an updated governing law, a handbook on NGO fiscal, tax, and accounting issues, and developing plans for a legal component for in-country training offered by both World Learning and Support Centers International. In addition, ICNL has provided ad hoc technical support for Romanian NGO legal initiatives. Moreover, through ICNL-sponsored regional conferences, Romanian lawyers, government officials, parliamentarians, judges, and academic and NGO leaders have met with their counterparts from throughout the region to develop specific standards and models for legislative and regulatory initiatives used in numerous countries both within CEE and beyond. As a result, Romanian leaders have strengthened their own capacity for legislative and regulatory initiative that has led to the current effort to provide an improved legal framework for the sector there.

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**Democracy Network Program
Czech Republic**

The Foundation for a Civil Society (FCS) implements the Democracy Network Program for the Czech Republic. The program has three components: a small grants program, a training assistance activity, and a journalism assistance program.

Under the small grants program, FCS provides funds to NGOS covering program costs, operational expenses, and training. In 1995-1996, 99 Czech NGOS received approximately \$312,000, awarded in three competitive rounds; FCS processed more than 150 proposals for each round. The majority of the 99 subgrants break down into the following general categories: environmental advocacy/operations, civic education, human rights, health and disability, and family/social services. FCS is currently reviewing the fourth round of grants -- thus far more than 70 grants have preliminary approval.

FCS has partnered with several Czech organizations to carry out the training component. Partners for Democratic Change-Czech Center conducts training needs assessments and runs workshops for NGOs in areas such as fund-raising, NGO management, and communication with the general public. The Lotus Foundation provides one-on-one consulting to small grant applicants and recipients in proposal-writing, as well as financial and technical report-writing to successful grantees. Places in the Heart Foundation conducts two-day media and public relations workshops for NGOs.

The Prague FCS staff is also currently creating a Journalism School Internship Program with Charles University (Prague), Masaryk University (Brno) and Palacky University (Olomouc). The program will place journalism students in NGOs to write press releases, work with the media and hopefully develop a lasting interest in the third sector.

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Democracy Network Program Slovakia

As of June 1996, The Foundation for a Civil Society (FCS), which administers the Democracy Network Program in Slovakia, had made small grants totalling \$740,000 to 28 Slovak NGOs. The majority of small grants went for activities in civic education, environmental advocacy, economics training, children/youth, and mental disabilities/drug prevention.

FCS works closely with three Slovak partners -- the Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA), Partners for Democratic Change-Slovakia (PDC), and the Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ). PDC conducted a needs assessment of the NGO session and is now running follow-up workshops in human resource development, communication skills, and organizational development. SAIA provides technical assistance to subgrant applicants and recipients in proposal-writing, application preparation, and volunteer management. The CIJ works with small grant recipients in media relations and presentation of information to the press, as well as with Slovak journalists to acquaint them with the programs of various NGOs and to foster a networking process with NGO leaders.

On June 20, 1996, the Slovak parliament overrode a veto by President Michal Kovac and reapproved the much-criticized law on foundations; the new law will go into effect September 1. A "foundation" in Slovakia can be a non-profit group that gives out funds, or the local affiliate of a foreign foundation. The law contains two particularly egregious features: first is a clause requiring that foundations have basic assets of 100,000 crowns (\$3,200), which critics say could mean the death of many smaller foundations. A second controversial aspect is the requirement that foundations register with Interior Ministry rather than with independent courts; this sets the stage for political pressure by the government on foundations.

While this law is not expected to have great impact on rank-and-file NGOs, it has become a political football and generated a good deal of publicity. The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) worked hard against the law, and succeeded in convincing the government to reduce the basic assets requirement from one million crowns to 100,000 crowns. At the government's request, ICNL will shortly review drafts of two other much better laws, one on "associations" (or NGOs), the other on former government agencies which have been privatized--mostly in the cultural area (e.g., museums).

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Democracy Network Program Hungary

While Hungary's Democracy Network Program is still relatively young--it has been less than a year since United Way International (UWI) signed its cooperative agreement--early indications of the program's impact are promising. There is already a well-established satellite network in five hub cities around the country, with important ties in each community to both NGO and local government leaders.

As a direct result of this network, the program's first round of subgrants attracted 463 applications from NGOs throughout Hungary--an unprecedented number considering Hungary's relatively small population (about 10 million).

The winners of the first round of subgrants have been selected and were announced in a press conference June 26. The 53 grants, totalling \$100,450, reflect a broad geographic spread, with 44 of the winning NGOs (over 83%) based outside Budapest. The majority of these grants (47 grants or nearly 90%) went to NGOs working on social safety net issues. Moreover, 28 grants (53%) went to NGOs working with such at-risk groups as children and youth, minorities, the unemployed, retirees and low-income families.

The program's training component continues to attract participation from not only the NGO sector but from local governments and the private sector as well. Specific training themes include public-private partnerships, local economic development, and joint project development.

In the area of legal infrastructure, The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) has provided technical assistance on draft NGO status and tax laws, and supported town meetings in 11 locations throughout the country. In addition, in conjunction with UWI, ICNL held a series of workshops for NGOs on legal requirements for contractual relationships with municipal governments.

Hungary's central location, as well as its relatively advanced NGO sector, has also made it a prime recipient of the National Forum Foundation's (NFF) regional networking and workshop grants -- three of the NFF's seven regional subgrants have gone to Hungarian NGOs for multi-national, joint projects. Moreover, two out of three NFF regional seminars have been hosted by Hungary. This allows broad participation and sharing of experiences among the region's NGOs, from Albania to Estonia.

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Democracy Network Program Estonia

Although the Democracy Network Program in Estonia began its activities barely six months ago, the U.S. Baltic Foundation (USBF), which is implementing the program, has already held training seminars for 60 participants from more than 45 NGOs across the country. These sessions focused on the roles that NGOs -- and through them citizens -- can play in the democratic process, as well as the tools that are necessary for NGOs to become self-sustaining, effective participants in local and national decision-making. USBF is working in Estonia with two partners, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Christian Children's Fund.

Due to the small size of the country (about 1.5 million population) and the relatively advanced development of the NGO sector in Estonia, Democracy Network resources are extremely limited -- only \$220,000 is to be awarded in subgrants during the entire two-year life of the project. Thus far, over a quarter of the funds have been awarded (\$58,800) in six grants that are almost equally divided among the four priority sectors (democratic development, economic development, social safety net, and environment). Roughly half of these (three grants or \$27,000) have targeted groups which assist women and children.

The second round of grant applications is currently being reviewed by the advisory panels. Since Estonia's Democracy Network Program is expected to close out early (by September of 1997), final awards are expected to be made in March of next year.

The two regional programs managed by the National Forum Foundation (NFF) and The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) are providing direct assistance through their own mechanisms. For example, the program manager from one of Estonia's most prominent and influential NGO umbrella groups (Jaan Tonisson Institute) received one of the 16 U.S. internships awarded by NFF. This institute has since applied for (and been awarded) the assistance of an American expert through the NFF's AVID volunteer program, ensuring that this much-needed NGO center will continue to survive and fulfill its role as an indigenous NGO trainer and coordinator.

ICNL has done its share in Estonia. In December of last year, the Law on Foundations and the Law on Associations were passed, thanks in part to direct technical assistance provided by ICNL. Currently, ICNL is working directly with the Ministry of Finance, Parliamentary Committees, and NGO leaders on drafting and passing new tax legislation.

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6/25/96

MEMORANDUM FOR LISSA

FROM:

ALICE 

SUBJECT:

FIRST LADY REFERENCES TO PROJECT FUNDING

On previous overseas trips when the First Lady has announced United States funding for projects, there has been misunderstanding on the part of the American people as to the source of the funding. Although you and I are aware that the funds are appropriately allocated government funds - usually USAID, I believe - there is an impression that the First Lady herself is allocating and disbursing federal dollars for projects outside the United States. As a result, she always gets letters from angry and disappointed U.S. citizens whenever there is much press play on her funding announcements.

I strongly recommend that any references to a U.S. funded project clearly indicate that it is a project of USAID or whatever agency and that the First Lady is emphasizing the benefits of the projects funded by these agencies and NOT allocating the funds.



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

F A X

TO: Lissa Muscatine

FAX: 456-5709

FROM: Barbara Turner
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Europe and the New
Independent States

PHONE: 202 647-6050

FAX: 202 647-9973

No. of Pages: 1 (including this page)

MESSAGE: As promised in our
Friday meeting.

Person

USAID WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

TOTAL P.01



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MESSAGE: As promised in our
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Barbara

USAID WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

6/19/96

Dear Lissa:

RE: FLOTUS - Europe

Following our discussion Friday I promised to send you the attached material:

1. Poland: NGO Grant Allocation Event - scene setter
(includes background on the suggested location and the home of the Polish Nobel Laureat)

We are hearing from State that this location may change. Unfortunately, we were not at the last meeting but I'll try to confirm with State.

2. Democracy Networks in Europe: A one page background on the program.
3. Romania - a potential scene setter for a visit to the family planning clinic. We understand this is not on the schedule at this time, but wanted you to have the info in case we are able to find time.



We owe you more on ESTONIA.

Concept/Event Description:

"Democracy Networks" -- Non-Government Organizations and Public Advocacy

A Presidential Initiative:

Purpose of the Democracy Networks Initiative: To help develop a new generation of sustainable public-policy-oriented NGOs, active in democracy, environment, social services, enterprise development, and minority rights (e.g. Ukrainian and Jewish youth).

Background/Interest to US: For almost half a century, Polish civil society was prevented from openly organizing, and exercising its rightful democratic role in addressing and solving economic, political and social issues at local, regional and national levels.

The Democracy Networks project, announced as a "Presidential Initiative" by President Clinton in July, 1994, is helping develop up to 60 sustainable public-policy oriented NGOs through appropriate training, technical assistance and support in the conduct of up to 60 successful public-advocacy initiatives in various sectors and different parts of Poland.

Purpose of Proposed Event: To recognize the 29 NGOs whose grant agreements were signed recently, and to sign agreements with the representatives of the newest group of NGO public-advocacy grantees. This would celebrate the launching of President Clinton's initiative in a light, positive, and interactive manner, permitting the First Lady to both participate in the start-up of the grant-giving event, and to interact with a range of NGO representatives from all over Poland.

Attendees: Representatives of NGO recipient organizations from many parts of Poland; Democracy Networks Advisory Board (includes three Members of Parliament), Selection Committee (including prominent NGO leaders, journalists).

Venue: Having closely examined and toured the location, with the First Lady's visit in mind, I recommend the old Chodkiewicz Palace in Old Town -- a good, central location, with protected main drive/entrance on Podwale Street. This was also the place of the tailor-apprenticeship of Nobel Prize winning author, Reymont; and the headquarters of the November Uprising. It is now the headquarters of the Polish Tradesmen's Union.

Proposed Event Description: Should be upbeat, celebrative, recognizing the launching of the Presidential Initiative. The emphasis should be on interaction with intelligent, dynamic, courageous Poles, who are deepening and broadening grass-roots

democracy in Poland.

Role of First Lady: Mrs. Clinton could ceremonially, present (or announce?) the award of an additional \$700,000 this year for support of Democracy Networks; and symbolically sign about 10 new NGO grants, also recognizing the 29 grants signed recently, to mark the launching of the "Democracy Networks" Initiative.

Options for Ceremonial Photo Ops:

- First Lady presenting a giant check (?) or other symbol representing additional \$700,000 for grants to Dem Net Director/Staff, for NGOs this year. Alternatively, some other symbolic gift may also be considered. We are inquiring about the most useful and appropriate type of gift. A large map of Poland in the background can have symbolic markers identifying location of projects around the country.
- A simple letter signed by the First Lady, expressing congratulations and best wishes to each individual organization can be handed to each grantee representative.
- First Lady signing 10 grants to new grantees. A one-sentence statement of purpose of the project can be simultaneously either voiced by the First Lady, or exhibited on a poster-board at time of signing.
- Children representing beneficiary NGOs present First Lady with 60 roses, each representing an NGO and its project.
- At end of Event, First Lady releasing 80 helium-filled balloons in the court-yard of the palace. Each balloon can be identified with the name of the NGO and its project;
- A 20-minute Round Table discussion between First Lady and 10-15 prominent NGO leaders and activists. This would present a more intimate, occasion for the First Lady to interact with smaller number of Polish NGO leaders. A separate attractive room with an interesting horse-shoe-shaped table is available for this occasion near the main hall.

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NOTES:**1. On the Chodkiewicz Palace —proposed venue**

Built in 1630, for a prominent bishop of Krakow and crown Chancellor, the palace was granted to the new capital of Warsaw. The palace was burned by the invading Swedes, and left in ruin until it was rebuilt in at the end of the 17th Century. Passing through several owners, the palace was purchased by the Chodkiewicz family, and housed a rich collection of books, paintings, engravings, coins, and other works of art. In 1818 the palace also became the site of the first lithographic establishment. The Palace was also the site of meetings, the preparation and the command headquarters of the 1832 "November Revolution" largely led by Polish gentry against the Russian forces under the partition. From 1880-1884 the site served as the place of tailoring-apprenticeship of Poland's Nobel Laureate for literature (Peasants), Wladyslaw Reymont. In 1920 the palace was purchased by the Association of Christian Tradesmen. The palace was totally destroyed and burned during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, and was rebuilt again in 1948.

2. Wladyslaw Reymont (1867-1925)

Nobel Laureate in literature (1924) for Peasants(Chłopi). The author led a colorful life, which included a four-year apprenticeship as a tailor (in the Chodkiewicz palace), a member of an itinerant theatrical troupe, clerk in the railroad, and a novice for the priesthood, before starting his literary career. Reymont wrote about turbulent social, historical and political issues of the day. His work Promised Land (also depicted in a contemporary film by Andrzej Wajda), described the mix of three interacting cultures in Lodz -- Polish, Jewish and German -- during a time of dynamic growth and social change in a setting of capitalistic entrepreneurship in the textile industry. The Nobel-prize-winning work Peasants, describes the burdens and hardships of peasant existence, richly capturing traditional Polish peasant culture and its inner strength, dignity and almost mystical bond with the soil.

Democracy Network Program

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Romania: Women's Health**CONTEXT:**

Under Ceausescu both abortion and contraception were banned, resulting in extremely high rates of illegal abortions and a maternal mortality rate ten times higher than elsewhere in Europe. In addition, thousands of abandoned children were placed in institutions by parents too poor to support another child, or by mothers unable to cope with the social stigma of raising a child alone.

In 1990, one of the first actions taken by the new government was to legalize both abortion and family planning. To improve women's health and to decrease the use of abortions as a major fertility control method, USAID funded, through the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), a Romanian non-governmental organization, the Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality (SECS) to establish a network of family planning clinics throughout Romania. These clinics are delivering high quality family planning services to over 25,000 women. Client interviews consistently rate the clinics high because of a personalized approach to counseling. CEDPA funds seven out of 12 SECS clinics.

OBJECTIVES:

' Visit one of the most popular clinics, LEU, serving university students in Bucharest.

Reinforce the importance of family planning in empowering Romanian women.

Encourage SECS in the efforts they are taking this final year of CEDPA's grant, to achieve as much self-financing as feasible so SECS can continue supporting the LEU Clinic which they get rent free from the Ministry of Health based on the condition that the family planning services are free.

TALKING POINTS:

--You and your staff are to be congratulated on the tremendous care you take every day to counsel young women and their partners on improved choices for reproductive health. I understand that this counseling is highly considered by your clients.

--SECS is to be congratulated on the excellent job they are doing to more fully develop cost recovery among their 12 family planning clinics. This is a difficult task.

Key Issues:

The government's efforts to reform Romania's social and health systems are progressing slowly, especially in developing an effective public family planning system.

There is a huge potential for private sector involvement in family planning, through non-government organizations, private physicians and private pharmacies.

Only one in five Romanian women uses any form of modern contraception.

Maternal mortality is still the highest in Europe, and abortions outnumber live births three to one.

The number of institutionalized children in Romania is estimated to be over 100,000.

FOR THE FUTURE:

Building on CEDPA's work with SECS and previous humanitarian work with institutionalized children, USAID's emphasis for the future is prevention of unintended pregnancy. Thus, one of the strategic objectives is "Increased use of modern contraceptive methods with an emphasis on private sector delivery systems." The two providers are USAID's Population Policy and PROFIT Projects. The Policy Project is committed to furthering the goals and recommendations of the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) by creating a supportive environment for family planning and reproductive health programs.

Profit is developing a three-component project: (1) launching and information and education campaign about modern contraceptives, focused on specific consumer groups and using the local private pharmacies as a channel for disseminating information and medical advice; (2) developing a business training program for owners and staff working in private pharmacies, focused on marketing, management, sales and advertising; and (3) developing a program for promoting contraceptive products through pharmaceutical distributors and pharmacies.



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U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

TOP CHOICES OF USAID PROJECTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALTICS

June 1996

TOP CHOICES OF USAID PROJECTS: CENTRAL EUROPE AND BALTICS

ROMANIA

Bucharest

1) Visit the Pregnant Women's Counseling Program

The USAID-financed "Future of Romania's (FOR) Children" Project is being implemented by Holt International Children's Services, a U.S. NGO. Holt has trained social assistants and placed them in maternity hospitals and with child protection agencies to work with mothers who are at risk of abandoning their children, frequently single mothers. The objective is to find support mechanisms that enable mothers to keep their children or, if that is not possible, to find the best option for a permanent home for the child. The pregnancy counseling program is pilot testing earlier identification of mothers at risk of abandonment to initiate earlier interventions, including material support and family planning counseling.

2) Visit to Leu Family Planning Clinic

USAID-financed, through CEDPA, (Center for Development and Population Activities) the development of Leu Family Planning Clinic for university students, sponsored by the Romanian NGO, SECS (Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality). Staffed by specially trained general practitioners, the clinic stresses a client-centered, counseling/listening approach. The Ministry of Health has donated the space for the clinic on the condition that family planning services are provided free for students, making sustainability a very challenging issue once donor support ends.

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POLAND

Warsaw

1) Democracy Network Awards to Polish Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

USAID funds the US non-profit, Academy for Educational Development to assist and promote the formation and development of NGOs in Poland. This event will be an opportunity to present about \$750,000 in funding to at least 29 Polish grassroots democracy-building programs addressing such issues as community health care, free press issues, minority rights, women and children's issues, and civic action groups. Representatives of each of these Polish groups would be at the event, to be held in a restored house in Old Town, offering an opportunity to interact with dynamic community members. **The Democracy Network is a Presidential initiative, announced by President Clinton in Poland during his July 1994 visit.**

2) Visit the Warsaw Journalism Center

USAID provides assistance to the Center to strengthen its capacity to meet the needs of the media sector through seminars, courses for the professional media community, and a practical two-year training program. This is the first, and only, Polish institution training a new generation of professional journalists who operate at a high level of independence and journalistic freedom. This institution will be self-sustaining and is an impressive operation.

For the visit, the Center would arrange a round table discussion of prominent Polish journalists including female journalists. In addition, it is possible to visit the Center's Television and Radio studio, which provides a source of income to the center.

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CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague

1) NGO Round-Table

The round-table will include 15 to 20 Czech NGOs that are recipients of USAID democracy grants. The program is managed by the U.S. non-profit, The Foundation for Civil Society (Wendy Luers). One of the grantee recipients, the Olga Havel Foundation, provides assistance to mentally and physically handicapped children and adults. This event will provide an opportunity to interact with key NGOs in the Czech Republic.

2) Visit Vinohrady University Hospital

USAID supports the Charles University Vinohrady Hospital. Our assistance has been effective in establishing quality health care standards that will lead to improved hospital management and health services. This is an opportunity to visit the Burned Children's Center where children receive specialized care.

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SLOVAKIA

Bratislava

Meeting with NGO Leaders

In this event there will be approximately 10 to 15 leaders from the non-governmental sector in Slovakia, many of whom are recipients of USAID funds. The NGO leaders in attendance will represent a good cross section of activities, promoting worthy social causes such as helping the handicapped, the aged, women, children, environmental protection, etc. At a follow-up reception, there will be an opportunity to meet forty other NGO leaders, including grantees under the USAID Democracy Network program, run by the U.S. non-profit, The Foundation for Civil Society (Wendy Luers). These NGO leaders are engaged in democracy-building activities, including legal training, legal services advocacy skills development, and the analysis of the position of women in Slovak society.

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HUNGARY

Budapest

1) Visit to the Center for Independent Journalism

The Center for Independent Journalism (CIJ) in Budapest was established in 1995 by the New York-based Independent Journalism Foundation. The opening of the center was made possible by USAID/USIA cooperative efforts.

The Independent Journalism Foundation is a U.S. non-partisan, non-political organization that also operates similar centers in Prague, Bratislava and Bucharest. The Foundation and its activities are supported primarily by private foundations, but its centers work closely with assistance activities carried out under the USAID/USIA Professional Media Program. The Foundation's board includes the following prominent American journalists: Bill Kovach, head of the Neiman Foundation, Harvard University; Seymour Topping, former managing editor, New York Times, now head of the Pulitzer Price Committee; Arthur Gelb, former managing editor, New York Times, now President of the New York Times Company Foundation; Judy Woodruff, CNN; Joan Konner, Dean, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University; and Tom Winship, former editor, Boston Globe.

For the First Lady's visit, CIJ will arrange a round table discussion by its Board, all of whom are prominent Hungarian journalists who are English speakers. In addition, she will view production of the CIJ's weekly Radio Show which is aired by six regional independent stations around Hungary. Also, the Center's Librarian will demonstrate computerized, on-line access to international news sources offered to Hungarian journalists using the Center.

2) Round-Table Discussion and Award to the Daily Help Foundation

The Daily Help Foundation is an Hungarian NGO that helps disadvantaged and unemployed youths. The Foundation is a suggested site for a round-table discussion with Roma (Gypsy) women. The visit would also offer the opportunity to present two \$10,000 grants under the USAID-funded United Way International Democracy Network program.

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ESTONIA

Tallinn

1) Tallinn Central Hospital

A U.S./Estonian partnership through American International Health Alliance with George Washington University, developed a totally innovative program: an Advanced Women's Health Life Support course, for physicians, midwives and nurses who provide primary care to women throughout Estonia on all aspects of women general and reproductive health, including breast and cervical cancer screening. The program is also developing Estonian language patient education materials on smoking risks and cessation, family planning and menopause.

2) Meet with Estonian Woman Leaders Who Attended the Beijing U.N. Conference on Women at the National Library.

USAID has provided assistance to a number of women's groups who will be participating in this event. Participants would include women who are members of Parliament, entrepreneurs, social leaders and journalists such as Marju Lauristin, Professor of Journalism and former Cabinet Minister and MP's Valve Kirsipuu and Krista Kilvet (total approximately 15 who attended the Beijing U.N. Conference). The event will take place at the National Library, a recipient of a SEED grant of \$1.34 million overseen by the Library of Congress. The grant was used to upgrade computer technology and book/periodical holdings of the National Library.)

3) Visit to the Open Air Museum

During the visit to the Open Air Museum there will be an opportunity to meet with over six NGO organizations that have received USAID grants under the Democracy Network Project.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW NGO AWARDS

POLAND

In Warsaw, during the Democracy Network Grant's Awards Ceremony there will be an opportunity for the First Lady to present about \$750,000 to at least 29 grassroots democracy-building programs addressing such issues as community health care, free press issues, minority rights, women's and children's issues, as well as civic action groups.

TOTAL	\$750,000
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ESTONIA

In Tallin, during the visit there will be an opportunity for the First Lady to present a check for a small grant to the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, an NGO that would use the grant to translate and publish and adaption of excerpts from the UN Convention on the Rights of Children in three editions for use in civics classes. The texts will be available in both Estonian and Russian.

TOTAL	\$24,000
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HUNGARY

Announcement of Award to Daily Help Foundation

In connection with First Lady's visit to the Daily Help Foundation for a round-table discussion with Roma (gypsy) women, Ms. Clinton would announce the award of two sub-Grants under the USAID-funded United Way International Democracy Network program. Two grants of approximately \$10,000 will be awarded to assist the Daily Help Foundation to continue their outreach to such disadvantaged Hungarians and their work in doing advocacy for unemployed youths from disadvantaged backgrounds.

TOTAL	\$20,000
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USAID

POLAND

Building free mkt economies

Democracy bldg

Overlapping the two = women

V. male oriented

Mrs Key will bring a # of women entrepreneurs
to round-table

11 Enterprise Funds is former for Union + C-Europe
Poland is one that works best - headed by a
woman - Barbara Lundberg.

Established a women entrepreneurs club -

helps women who are + want to be entrepreneurs

Work thru Polish banks + lending institutions

- software, clothes, includg service industries

Base of highly educated women but not holdg
high level jobs in new economies

Women involved in NGOs + findg their power there

Pressure groups + lobby groups are not trad'l

(even PTAs etc are rare) so NGOs become

v. important

Democracy Networks - Empowerment

⑩ Try to create environments for prosperity

Women's Event

Microcredit + entrepreneurship must be a part of women's
break career -

Journalism - many women journalists

(Hospital - technical assistance from U.S.)

→ USMO has assisted a j'm center in Warsaw -

USAID (2)

POLAND

NBO grant allocation - democracy building
Home of Nobel Laureate - old part of Warsaw
bring together 29 NBOs receiving grants

Speech

→ Democracy requires a vital civil society -
hence support of NBOs

speech

Civil society / investments in people / women

ROMANIA

Pediatric AIDS / Adoption ? or
Family Planning

1 Puller
press
spis 1961

(if we do Romania 2nd step)

- would have to have press pool bc small townhouse
in heart of Bucharest

- prevent abortions - abortion rate so high

- vestiges of Ceausescu govt - wanted largest
pop'n in Europe

- Health Ministry donated property - not proactive
now are they blocking it

[source of baby AIDS cases - underweight babies
routinely transfused - even regular babies -
blood donated by sailors / AIDS - now very few
new cases bc have gotten a hold of blood problem]

→ Break down institutionally of children then:
family planning; adoption
(Pediatric AIDS = diff issue)

CZECH
REPUBLIC

RFE > major news.

SLOVAKIA

NBOs - civil society

USAID (3)

HUNGARY

Brand new bldg we're renting to bring all of U.S. agencies together - but v. ostentatious bldg

Daily Help Foundation / Roma event
\$10K USAID - 2 grants → \$20K total.

Theme: Protection of minority rights

ESTONIA

Small grant announcement to Estonian Union
for Child Welfare. - education

USAID \$ literacy of Congress.

USAID

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