

## A Global Reach, A Local Approach – Building Democracy Since 1989

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### PARTNERS' CENTERS:

#### EUROPE

Albania  
Bulgaria  
Czech Republic  
Hungary  
Kosova  
Lithuania  
Poland  
Romania  
Slovakia

#### SOUTH CAUCASUS

Georgia

#### SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

#### U.S. OFFICES

Washington, DC  
San Francisco, CA

### PARTNERS' MISSION:

Partners for Democratic Change is an international organization committed to building sustainable local capacity to advance civil society and a culture of change and conflict management worldwide.

## PARTNERS CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY BUILDING AROUND THE WORLD



### Partners to Host DC Symposium: “Managing the Challenge of Change in Evolving Democracies”

In October 2003 Partners enters into its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation. To mark this anniversary, Partners, together with the Business Council of International Understanding, will host an invitational Symposium for Ambassadors from the Middle East, Central Europe, Latin America, and

other regions; senior policy members of the Department of State, USAID, and the World Bank; Directors from Partners' 11 national Centers; and business leaders. The Symposium will focus on the interdependence that makes for a successful market and democratic governance system.

Working in facilitated groups, participants will share perspectives on how different countries are confronting the pressures for reform driven by demands for enhanced participation, globalization, and global access to information. Support for the Symposium is provided by a grant from the GE Foundation.

### USAID Funds Partners' Four-Year Initiative with the Roma in Central and Eastern Europe

The Roma, or Gypsies, are Europe's largest ethnic minority. For decades they have faced high levels of discrimination, violence, and unemployment, as well as limited access to healthcare, education, and social services. Partners is promoting inclusion and integration of the Roma in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia through a 4-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development. This initiative will provide key leadership, communication, and advocacy skills to hundreds of Roma leaders. Building on USAID's

commitment to improve the lives of the Roma, Partners will convene cooperative planning sessions in nine communities, bringing together Romas, municipal officials, social service agencies, police, NGOs and businesses to come up with local solutions to issues such as educational segregation, shortages of housing, and access to justice. In the same communities, Partners will launch Conciliation Commissions in which Roma and non-Roma work together to facilitate public dialogue on key issues and to address social and identity-based conflicts.

Beginning in the second year of the program, Partners will provide small grants to Roma organizations and will conduct media and school campaigns to reduce prejudices and stereotypes in the region. Each year, Partners will organize and convene regional meetings for program beneficiaries and national-level public policy roundtables on Roma social integration. This Initiative builds upon Partners' extensive work in Roma communities in Central and Eastern Europe over the past decade.



## CENTER WORK HIGHLIGHTS

### Albania

- Providing training, technical assistance, and small grants to civil society organizations
- Developing university-based conflict management curricula
- Strengthening youth and women's leadership and promoting cooperative planning processes

### Argentina

- Resolving environmental disputes
- Promoting citizen-police cooperation to address public safety issues
- Building civil society networks and strengthening youth leadership

### Bulgaria

- Creating opportunities for youth at risk
- Promoting Roma inclusion in education, government and business
- Mediating business, family, and civil disputes

### Czech Republic

- Conducting legal "literacy" programs, making the law more accessible to youth
- Promoting minority rights and inclusion, and majority-minority dialogue
- Teaching conflict resolution skills to children and youth

### Georgia

- Building the advocacy skills of civil society organizations
- Raising the awareness of mediation
- Promoting youth and women's leadership throughout the South Caucasus

## Partners Opens New Office in Washington, D.C.

In March 2003, Partners opened an office in Washington, D.C. dedicated to informing policymakers, agency officials, non-governmental organization leaders, as well as the general public of the important links between democracy building and creating a local capacity for peaceful conflict settlement worldwide. Since March, the office has expanded its work with U.S. government agencies, the Congress, and international

development organizations. Building Centers in new regions of the world and spreading conflict and change management knowledge through global non-governmental institutions has been a major focus of the D.C. office, which is supported by a grant from the Compton Foundation, Inc.



*United States' Senate and House of Representatives in their Foreign Operations Appropriations Report cited Partners as a leading democracy and conflict resolution organization to be used abroad by federal departments and agencies*

## Regional Program for Municipal Governments in the Balkans Enters its Third Year

Partners' *Strengthening Local Democracy in the Stability Pact Region* is a two-year continuation of a successful municipal development program which in its first year trained nearly 800 municipal officials and civil society representatives, significantly improving local public service management, inter-ethnic relations, and local government/NGO cooperation in 30 Balkan communities. Now in its third

year, the program has provided over 70 participants from municipal training organizations in nine Southeast European countries and provinces with trainer skills in advanced municipal development areas. Four trainer sessions cover topics such as transparency, accountability of municipal governments, communications and elected leadership, management of conflict, and public relations

(PR) skills for municipal officials. To date, trainers have improved the skills of over 320 municipal officials in the above subject areas, contributing to more open, transparent and responsive municipalities throughout the Balkans. The Program is supported by funds from the U.S. Department of State and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Young Women in Central and Eastern Europe Promote Peace, Equality, and Diversity Projects

Partners for Democratic Change launched a regional program in January 2003 for 25 young women working with disadvantaged communities in Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Serbia. The program is funded by the Levi Strauss Foundation and the Open Society Institute-Serbia. In April, Partners-Slovakia conducted a cooperative advocacy training, which ended

with the young women designing year-long projects and implementation plans. With Partners' and the Centers' support, the women leaders are now implementing their projects. Projects include organizing a coalition against domestic violence in two cities, providing drug prevention training for refugees, creating a training manual for persons working with the mentally

disabled, promoting volunteerism for the Third Sector, and many other initiatives. The work has catalyzed funders, like the Boell Foundation, to support the projects run by the young women. The participants are reporting lessons learned and building a network using an email list serve.



## Partners Builds Capacity of U.S. Organizations

Partners work with the **Afghan Coalition for Community Service in Fremont, CA**, built the group's leadership capacity, which allowed them to work with public agencies on Afghan health issues in the aftermath of September 11. Partners provided the Coalition with skills to better communicate and build a network linking members of the community, Fremont municipal officials, and representatives of health and other social service sectors. This network was built after the Afghan Coalition facilitators (trained by Partners) conducted four community dialogues where several hundred community members discussed health, education, and social services issues. The dialogues, supported by the California Endowment, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Stuart Foundation, facilitated the founding of the Afghan Health Committee, which now advocates for an Afghan Health Partnership with community health providers.

The **Advocacy Institute** (Washington, DC) and Partners for Democratic Change are working to merge the field of advocacy with change and conflict management. Together, the two organizations are cooperating with the Coalition of African, Asian, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAELII) to initiate "cooperative advocacy" related to immigration policy and skill building, in order to serve the immigrant communities of the United States.

**Project Concern International's U.S. - Mexico Border Health Initiative (BHI)** recently contracted with Partners to assist in designing a cooperative advocacy project on bi-national HIV/AIDS awareness and to help facilitate the development of a participant designed advocacy plan. This effort is an outcome of an earlier Partners cooperative planning training program for BHI.

## Partners' New Curriculum Introduced in Sofia

Since 1998, Partners' U.S. program has adapted and disseminated Partners' methodologies domestically in communities of color, building their skills to peacefully achieve consensus and resolve potential conflicts. Based on this expertise and experience, Partners developed a **Partners Collaboration Model (PCM)** training methodology. PCM integrates a multicultural perspective into the cooperative planning process to facilitate meaningful, in-depth social change in diverse communities. This approach is based on the philosophy that only when all cultures in a community are respected, included, and validated, can the community progress beyond divisions to create a better future for all its citizens. The model focuses on building a community among a diverse group of stakeholders and explores the role of the Facilitative Stakeholder, a person who facilitates a large collaborative process, but

who also works for an organization that has a stake in the outcome of the process. On July 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, Partners-Bulgaria hosted a training led by Partners' trainers in Partners Collaboration Model (PCM) in Sofia. Over 20 experienced Center trainers enhanced their collaborative planning and problem-solving skills. Both the training and the new model were positively received by the Center trainers and practitioners, who now utilize the new skills in their home communities. Building on the knowledge gained in Sofia, Partners conducted a second training for Center staff from Kosovo and Albania in September. Partners will disseminate the new model widely in 2004.

PCM was developed and tested in the United States with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett and Claude and Louise Rosenberg Jr. Foundations.

## CENTER WORK HIGHLIGHTS

### Hungary

- Building a National Association of Mediators
- Promoting Roma rights and inclusion
- Facilitating municipal cooperative planning processes

### Kosovo

- Mediating blood feuds, property disputes, and family disputes
- Promoting good governance at the municipal level
- Promoting interethnic understanding and reconciliation

### Lithuania

- Mediating family, business and civil disputes
- Fostering disability awareness and inclusion
- Promoting citizen-local government cooperation

### Poland

- Mediating family and business disputes
- Strengthening youth and women's leadership
- Building municipal-citizen relationships

### Romania

- Building the skills of municipal leaders and supporting citizen-municipal cooperation
- Creating an international network of trainers
- Raising awareness of peaceful dispute resolution

### Slovakia

- Building NGO networks focused on important social issues
- Promoting minority rights and inclusion
- Providing conflict resolution skills to NGO leaders in Slovakia and other countries



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*A Global Reach, A  
Local Approach –  
Building Democracy  
Since 1989*

We're on the Web!

[www.partnersglobal.org](http://www.partnersglobal.org)

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## Demand for Centers' Expertise Sought Globally

The expertise of Partners' Centers is increasingly sought globally. **Dusan Ondrusek, Director of Partners Slovakia**, is working with the UN mission in Tajikistan on final peace negotiations between the government and the opposition. At the request of the World Bank "Cities Alliance" program, **Ana Vasilache, Director of Partners Romania**, will head up the Community on Democracies regional NGO meeting in Bucharest in November 2004. **Graciela Tapia, Director of Partners Argentina**, is working on a collaborative process in Venezuela between the government and telecommunications firms prominent in the opposition. **Maciej Tanski, Director of Partners Poland**, recently completed training in the U.S. for a major role in civil society development in the Polish Sector in Iraq.

## Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI)

Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI) is a partnership of Partners and Centers linked by a common mission and values of democratic change, working to build capacity, cooperation, and sustainability among partnership members. PDCI strengthens Centers and Partners by transferring and sharing expertise and resources, utilizing experienced trainers between Centers on projects, and drawing on Center expertise to build new Centers' training, application and organizational development capacities.

*Partners' programs mentioned in this Newsletter were made possible thanks to generous contributions from: The California Endowment, Compton Foundation, GE Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Levi Strauss Foundation, The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Open Society Fund, Rational Games Foundation, Shapiro Family Foundation, Stuart Foundation, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, Whitehead Foundation and the generous contributions of Partners' Board of Directors.*

