

FUNDING:

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- USAID
- USIP - United States Institute for Peace

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OUR COMMITMENT:

"An army of principles can penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot."
Thomas Paine

As international funding for the Balkans is reduced, yet major changes have taken place in 2006 and more are due to take place in the near future, the CDRSEE recognises that support for the societies of the region is crucial if Southeast Europe is to emerge from the recent large-scale events in a peaceful and democratic manner.

Much of the social capital that has been built up over the last decade is at risk of being lost, if genuine indigenous solutions are not encouraged, fostered and strengthened.

Our commitment and perhaps our greatest challenge is to help the peoples of the region to help themselves, drawing on the unique qualities, capabilities and resilience that are intrinsic to the region's peoples and to bridge the gap between the past and the future; the gap between transitional region, to prosperous and peaceful.



The Staff of CDRSEE.



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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".
Margaret Mead

Comprising a diverse range of people, backgrounds, faiths, ideas, genders, ages and skills, the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) is one small group of people, in cooperation with considerable networks of groups of people, whose intent is to support and encourage democratic change in Southeast Europe. The CDRSEE believes that the key to a stable and peaceful region is the foundation of robust democracies and genuine peace; peace that has been constructed through reconciliation, discussion, open participation and agreement, rather than an imposed solution.

The CDRSEE recognises that despite a difficult recent past, the peoples of Southeast Europe have the skills, determination and capacity to undertake the establishment of democracies and join the European Union. The CDRSEE sees its role as one of supporting and facilitating the process by which genuine change and sustainable solutions from within can be put into practice: supporting the emergence of societies in which diversity is a cause for celebration, not conflict.

The CDRSEE is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation advocating the principles of social responsibility and fostering civil society.

PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED:

"Everything secret degenerates, even the administration of justice".
Lord Acton

'**Disclosing Hidden History; Lustration in the Western Balkans**' closed after a successful 18 month run, and the resulting publication and project documentation can be found at www.lustration.net

"... [f]orgiveness is based on [] disclosure of the truth. You cannot forgive what you do not know".
Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1995

'**Our Town, Our Future**', an innovative radio drama project in cooperation with the BBC World Service Trust that worked on issues of municipal corruption was successfully completed after its planned duration in Bosnia & Herzegovina. The results of the project have been published and can be found at www.cdsee.org/our_town_our_future.html

SUCCESS STORIES OF 2006:

"Education is the road to equality and citizenship"
Rev Martin Luther King, Jr

The Joint History Project continues to go from strength to strength while retaining and developing the principles of inclusivity, democratic cooperation and respect, even in the face of opposition.

History education can be a tool for either the perpetuation of stereotypes and means to reinforce certain 'truths', or it can be the vehicle for the emergence of peaceful and democratic societies. The Joint History Project aims to encourage a multi-perspective view of the past, through a methodology of allowing students to think about the similarities between themselves and 'the other'. In this way, the Joint History Project develops the skills and understanding necessary for building a stable Southeast Europe.

"Distorted history boasts of bellicose glory and seduces the souls of boys to seek mystical bliss in bloodshed and in battles."
Alfred Adler

The first Training of Trainers workshop took place Belgrade, using the **Serbian Language Edition**. Having completed their training, the trainers will now go on to train other teachers and Serbia will be the first country in which the project is fully handed over to the final beneficiaries - the teachers and students of Serbia.

Three local Teacher Training workshop took place in Serbia, with **two** more planned for 2007. The President of Serbia, Mr Boris Tadić expressed his interest and support at the Workshop in Niš.

The **Greek Language Edition** of the History Workbooks was presented in Athens in November to a distinguished audience. The CDRSEE received the positive news that the History Workbooks have been cleared for introduction into school libraries by the Greek Ministry of Education, and we expect a positive response for their use in class in the near future.

Preparatory activities related to the **Albanian Language Edition** of the Workbooks have started- the funding having been secured- and work is underway on the **Bosnian, Croatian and Macedonian Language Editions**.



Mr. Boris Tadić, President of Serbia, with participants of the Teacher Training Workshop in Niš, Oct 06



Dr. Erhard Busek, chair of CDRSEE's Board of Directors



Pavlos Tsimas, moderating the JHP Press Conference in Athens to launch the Greek editions, November 06



The 170 Municipal Workers who participated in a conference in Neum, BiH for the 'Our Town, Our Future' Project.



The Four Workbooks.

NEW INITIATIVES:

Employed, Empowered

"...celebrate the extraordinary courage and contributions of refugees past and present." - Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

The CDRSEE is pleased to announce its successful bid for funding from the European Commission for a new project; 'Employed, Empowered'. This initiative will work on practical economic support to all those affected by forced migration in Serbia, along with a robust labour survey to match people to jobs. The project will start in January 2007 and its basic principle is the utilisation of the skills and knowledge of displaced persons, rather than viewing them as a burden or a problem to be solved.

IT-Visions

"Where there is no vision, there is no hope." - George Washington Carver

In an exciting new initiative, the CDRSEE is launching '**IT-Visions; a regional forum for cooperation**' which aims to foster cooperation and reconciliation through technology. It will bring together the best computer science students from 11 countries across the region, while also offering them access to the software companies and an arena in which to work together.

Trading Hope

"In the Balkans, 99% of the people can give you one hour of expertise on the politics, on the nationalities, on the entities, on the countries, but nobody can give you two sane sentences on how to improve their life."

Darko Brkan, a Bosnian citizen, speaking to the BBC.

One of the major causes of the current unemployment problem in parts of South East Europe has been the collapse of the SME sector due to the conflict. Trading Hope is an innovative new initiative which will give SMEs access to the advice they need to develop, by linking them with volunteer business experts from Ireland and the UK. It is a timely and practical initiative which will not only benefit local communities but also public and private investors in the region.