

**PRELIMINARY REPORT:
CHANGING PARADIGMS IN THE REGION OF CEE AND NIS**

Funders interested in the Region of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS) gathered in Kyiv, Ukraine for the Tenth Annual Meeting (AM) of the European Foundation Centre (EFC) Grantmakers East Group (GEG) to discuss the issue of *Response to Change* in the Region.

The issues discussed at the Tenth AM were grouped into four principal tracks: Public-Private Partnership, Grantmaking Practices, Civil Society Plus, and Models of Giving. The meeting provided a good opportunity to exchange grantmaking experiences both in terms of best practices and various models of giving. Participants discussed ways to build synergy between the private and the public sectors, particularly in designing anti-corruption policies and promoting health issues. In addition, the meeting took a fresh look at the issue of supporting civil society by developing culture and gender projects as well as strengthening cooperation with political parties. The meeting confirmed an even greater need for foundations, their partners and grantee networks to support the democratisation process in the Region.

The GEG Tenth AM provided also an opportunity to present and discuss the results of a review that analysed regional context issues and their impact on the GEG and its operations. It showed that the GEG has been successful over the last ten years in stimulating discussion on the development of civil society and the growth of philanthropy in CEE and NIS. Moreover, the review brought up a series of options and recommendations for the future. It was stressed that the GEG needs to continue to support the dialogue between foreign and indigenous grantmakers, especially in the context where foreign donors are narrowing their geographical focus. Increased sub-regionalisation of interests and priorities suggests the need for creating both a sub-regional dialogue and exchanges within the region as a whole. In addition, the GEG should identify the most appropriate framework for reaching out to new grantmakers, particularly corporate donors, agencies granting public funds, independent grantmakers from the region as well as multilateral and European foundations. The GEG Steering Committee will explore ways to meet these challenges and remain responsive to the needs of donors in CEE and NIS.

The Tenth AM was held on 20-21 October 2005 in Kyiv, Ukraine. It convened some 180 representatives of private and public grantmakers from 29 different countries. Organised by the EFC and the GEG Steering Committee, the meeting was hosted by the Ukrainian Grantmakers Forum.

The Eleventh AM of the GEG will be held in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro on 19-20 October 2006.

A full report on the GEG Tenth Annual Meeting will be available shortly at:
<http://www.efc.be/projects/GEG/default.htm>