



International Centre for Democratic Transition

*Promoting  
Democratic  
Transition  
Worldwide  
2009*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *Dear Friends of Democracy and the ICDT:*

*If we have learned anything in the last year, it is that new ideas, dedication, and the courage to speak up for your principles matter. In this difficult time of economic downturn and tight budgets, we are reminded more than ever that economic as well as political stability is not a natural condition, but the work of people who see the need to actively promote better policies, interregional cooperation, civil society, and more effective government institutions.*

*That is the ICDT's mission. Our goal is to advance democracy by drawing on recent experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, in Hungary and in other young democracies in the region, and share them with those who are determined to follow the same path. Our devoted staff, together with the strong support of international experts and board members, is working to understand the current problems and to offer insight, recommendations, and training opportunities – whether it concerns the new Albanian electoral system, rural development in the Western Balkans, the Constitutional Court and Ombudsman Service in Moldova, or the European Union's approach to Belarus – to build a more democratic and stable world.*

*In 2009, the ICDT established a "Research and Analysis" program so as to better understand and explain the complex process of democratic transitions, provide recommendations for the Centre's projects, and forecast future trends. We also held activities that commemorated the 20th anniversary of the transition to democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. Key figures that stood on opposing sides of the Iron Curtain two decades ago agree on one fundamental point: the collapse of the Soviet Union was not a result of the actions of politicians, but was due to the optimism of, and pressures from, society. Therefore, the ICDT focuses more than ever on the development of civil society and tries to revive the mixture of indigenous drive, regional organizations and leadership, and external pressures, which translated 20 years ago into a victory for democracy throughout this region.*

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*Speaking at the ICDT's inaugural conference on November 2, 2005 in Budapest, Paula J. Dobriansky, at that time Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, declared that "the situation in other parts of the world [was] in no way a replica of what this region faced and achieved in the mid to late 20th century." But she also said that the longing for freedom, the grassroots energy and desire, and -- in many cases -- individual experiences and challenges are the same. While whole cases are not transferable from this region to other parts of the world, many specific Central and Eastern European strategies, methods, successes, failures, and lessons learned, are tremendously applicable for those striving for democracy today.*

*The last four years have given us great reason for hope, and yet reminded us of the serious challenges we face and the immensity of the task that lies ahead. I am very pleased to be a part of the ICDT, and I want to assure you that we will continue to pursue our goals with fervor. This brochure contains the ICDT's projects since the end of 2008 and our future plans. We cannot do this work without the support we receive from individuals, foundations, organizations, and governments. We invite you to join us as partner, donor, and friend of the organization. After all, we can shape the future by sharing our own experiences with those who need it. Democracy has never been so important than it is today.*



*Amb. Prof. Dr. István Gyarmati,  
President and CEO of the ICDT*



## ABOUT THE ICDT

The ICDT is a non-profit organization based in Budapest, Hungary which collects the experiences of recent democratic transitions and shares them with those who are determined to follow that same path. Instead of promoting democracy in general, the ICDT sets more concrete and pragmatic goals. The Centre strives to show how dozens of young democracies have made and are making the transition, so that those who set off on this difficult journey from dictatorship to democracy in the future may learn from the successes as well as from the failures.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Because the International Centre for Democratic Transition was founded in Central Europe, we are acutely aware of the complexity of democratic transition as a process. We ourselves have recently undergone this process and know full well the fragility of new democracies. We firmly believe that a transition can only be judged to be successful when the benefits of democracy are shared by the whole of society. The ICDT's mission is to facilitate the smooth and peaceful process of democratic transition on the basis of participatory principles; the political, economic, legal, cultural, and civil societal aspects of transformation; and the socio-cultural context of regions and countries where the process takes place.

## VISION

In a future filled with daunting challenges and serious obstacles that could impede the spread of democracy, the International Center for Democratic Transition will be a leading organization on the difficult issue of democratic transition. Combining hard-won exceptional practical knowledge with an unyielding commitment to the process of transition, the ICDT will stand at the side of those who seek to bring democracy's benefits to their own people and to provide the skills and tools to do so effectively.

## HISTORY

The idea of establishing an institute to collect and share the experiences of past democratic transitions originated with former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary Mark Palmer when he was serving as Vice President of the Council for a Community of Democracies (CCD) in 2004. His proposal was followed by a meeting between the Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs and the U.S. Secretary of State in June 2004. At a conference in Budapest in March 2005, civil society and governmental leaders from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the United States, as well as representatives of a number of international organizations, gave a warm welcome to, and clear approval of, the ICDT's concept paper. Subsequently, this idea for a "clearing house" on democratic transitions was presented by the Hungarian Foreign Minister at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in Santiago de Chile. Once again, the idea was well-received and endorsed by the participating Foreign Ministers representing more than 100 democratic governments of the world. Finally, in September 2005, the Hungarian President announced

at the World Summit of the United Nations that "an International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT) has been set up in Budapest."





## OPERATIONAL METHOD

### The ICDT:

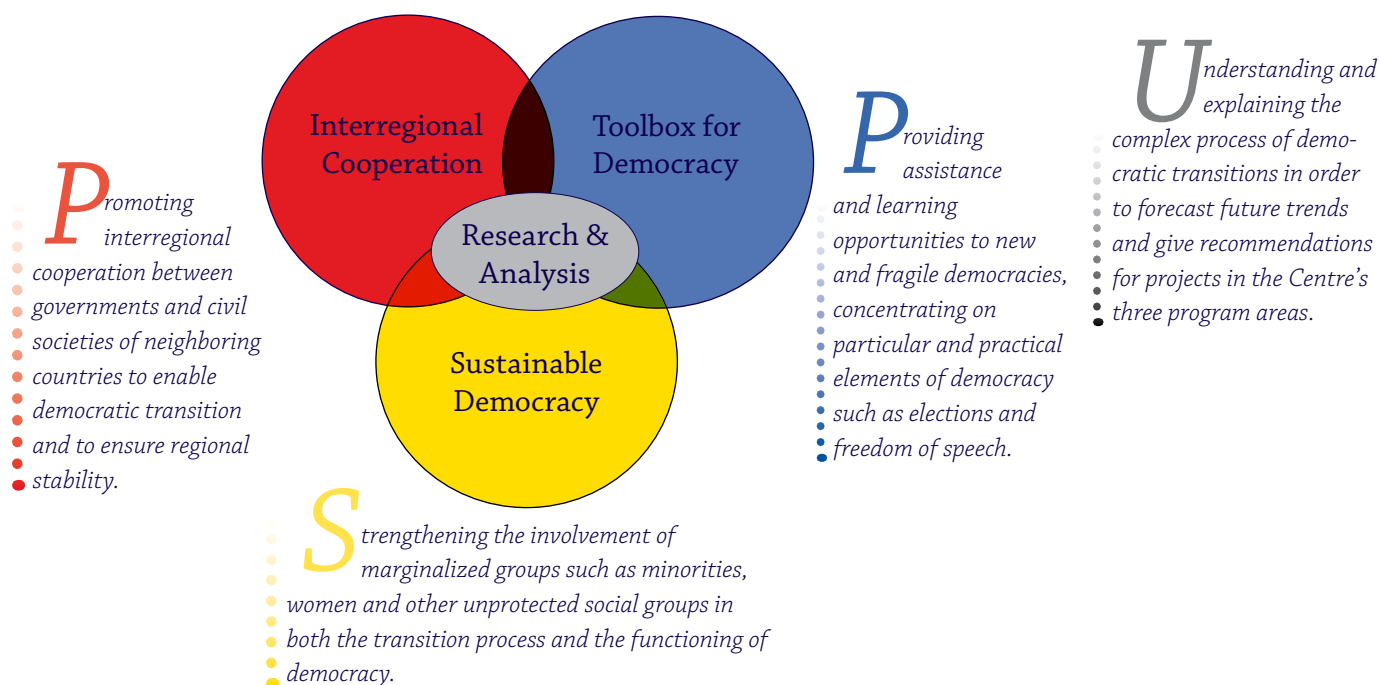
- **Facilitates** the process of democratic transition by using the knowledge pool of transitional experience and by sharing best practices and lessons learned;
- **Convenes** the most important indigenous stakeholders to play key roles in the transition process;
- **Provides** an adaptable toolbox and appropriate models for the creation and consolidation of democratic institutions;
- **Mediates** between cultures and regions by generating dialogue

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2009

- Pursued 23 distinct projects to promote democratic transition and share best practices and lessons learned;
- Established a strong presence in Moldova with a series of high-profile projects;
- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of the 1989 democratic changes in a dignified way, with a number of conferences and high-level events;
- Reached out to over a thousand members of civil society, government officials, and media representatives;
- Earned the trust of new donors including the Governments of Estonia, Switzerland, and Luxembourg;
- Established a long-term partnership with the Helen Bader Foundation;
- Achieved broad international recognition with the publication of *A European Alternative for Belarus: Report of the Belarus Task Force*;
- Published an Open Letter to the Obama Administration, which attracted international attention and debate;
- Enlisted Paula J. Dobriansky, April H. Foley, Nabila Hamza, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Aleksandr Kwasniewski, Dr. Péter Medgyessy, George E. Pataki, George Soros, and Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga as new international board members;



## PROGRAM AREAS



## PROJECTS

### STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW INSTITUTIONS IN MOLDOVA: THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND THE OMBUDSMAN SERVICE

*July 2008 to May 2009*

The objective of this project is to reform and increase the effectiveness of the Constitutional Court and the Ombudsman Service. The first phase of the project was focused on identifying and engaging key stakeholders, studying the existing institutions, and analyzing the current legal environment in Moldova, as well as on the preparation of expert recommendations on possible reforms for both institutions. In addition, the judges of the Moldovan Constitutional Court met with their Hungarian counterparts as well as MEPs and experts in Budapest. Based on the findings of the first phase, the ICDT started the second project phase in March 2009 with a one-month training session for staffers of the Moldovan Ombudsman Office and the Data Protection agency in Budapest. Based on the positive feedback of the participants, the ICDT plans similar activities in the near future.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE MINORITY COMMUNITIES SITUATION IN KOSOVO

*November 2008 to September 2009*

Based on interviews with community representatives in the municipalities of Peja/Pec, Prizren, and Strpche/Strepche, the ICDT developed recommendations for increased cooperation between minority communities in Kosovo. The paper entitled “Proposals to Improve the Situation of Minority Communities in Kosovo” makes recommendations regarding regulations and legislation on the minority rights in Kosovo, analyzes the situation of ethnic groups in different municipalities, and addresses the main challenges as well as possibilities for improvement of relations between community groups. In September 2009, the ICDT presented the content of the paper in Kosovo that will also be presented to other stakeholders. The project led to new project proposals, including the concept for the follow-up project “Enhancing Minority Integration through Improved Implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages in Kosovo.”



### ENHANCING MINORITY INTEGRATION THROUGH IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON THE USE OF LANGUAGES IN KOSOVO

*October 2009 to June 2010*

The objectives of this project are to: 1) Facilitate cooperation and communication between minority leaders, municipal government leaders, and Language Commission representatives; 2) Instruct each individual on the content of the Law on the Use of Languages and its meaning for his or her respective municipality. 3) Develop regulations on the use of languages within each target municipality so that the express rights of the communities are clearly stated and understood by each group responsible for the implementation of the legislation. 4) Disseminate information about the content of the aforementioned regulations and linguistic rights of the minority communities. The mentoring of the representatives of Prizren and Pejë/Peć will be carried out by a selected group of local and international specialists over the course of three workshops. These groups will ensure that each municipality has developed and publicized regulations on language use, and then follow up the process of passing these regulations to ensure that words are translated into actions.

### ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SAP COUNTRIES BY INTRODUCING THE ‘LEADER’ EXPERIENCE

*March 2008 to September 2009*

In this project the ICDT transferred Hungarian and European experiences and best practices associated with LEADER, a European Community initiative for assisting rural communities in improving their quality of life, to the countries in the EU’s Stabilization and Association Process (SAP). After several training sessions, participants prepared their own Local

Action Plans for potential LEADER pilot areas in their countries using the Handbook on the LEADER approach, which was provided by the ICDT in Serbian. The identified opportunities for the areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo included, among others, the use of natural resources, regional, national, international and cross-border cooperation, production and processing of organic food, expansion of tourism, and the development of (agricultural) infrastructure. As a follow-up, the ICDT has supported the implementation of a number of training workshops in partnership with national governments, including Serbia and Macedonia, and the UNDP and organized a study tour in September 2009 with members of the Serbian national rural development network entitled “Strengthening the Capacity of Local Communities in the Management of Area-Based Rural Development Based on the Hungarian Experience.” In presenting the Hungarian experience on adopting LEADER, special emphasis was laid on showing examples of cross border activities to promote similar projects between Hungary and Serbia.

#### **SHARING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE VISEGRAD COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND THE EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD**

*November 2008 to October 2010*

The main objective of the project is to strengthen democracy, partnership, and regional cooperation in two neighboring regions of strategic importance to the EU. In particular though, the ICDT aims to share the experience of the Visegrad cooperation with the Western Balkans and Eastern Neighborhood to encourage cooperation in achieving common goals, such as EU and NATO integration. In March 2009, an international expert team met to review the current main issues in the partner regions and to draw up a firm conceptual framework for the project. Main activities will center on workshops in Kiev, Sarajevo, Skopje and Tbilisi, and, where stakeholders from the partner regions will meet with representatives of the EU and international organizations to discuss

possible regional and cross-border cooperation of national and local governments, civil society organizations, and businesses. The outcome will include a preparatory study summarizing best practices and lessons learned from Visegrad cooperation, as well as a final study containing case studies and conclusions from the partner regions. A project website will be launched in October 2009.

#### **BELARUS TASK FORCE**

*October 2007 to August 2009*

The Belarus Task Force is a group of intellectuals, political leaders, experts, and researchers, who analyzed the political situation in Belarus. The Task Force’s recommendations for action by the international community towards Belarus were published in the report *A European Alternative for Belarus - Report of the Belarus Task Force of the ICDT* in October 2008 in English, Russian, and Belarusian. The report has been introduced and discussed in Berlin, Brussels, Helsinki, Oslo, Stockholm, Warsaw, Washington, and Vilnius. Written under the lead of the former President of Poland and member of the ICDT’s International Board, Alexander Kwasniewski, the report received a great deal of attention in both the EU and Belarus and has also come to be known as the ‘Kwasniewski Plan.’ Since the publication of the report, the European Union has largely been following its recommendations in its policy towards Belarus. While the report’s most important provisions are being translated into EU policy, particularly with





regard to an engagement and rapprochement policy with Belarus, some important recommendations remain unaddressed, most notably the recommendation to decrease Schengen visa fees for Belarusians, following the example of Russians, Ukrainians, or Moldovans.



## CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF ALBANIA

*September 2008 to May 2009*

In this project, the ICDT assisted the Albanian government in the formation of the institutional background of the new electoral system. In cooperation with the Hungarian National Election Office the ICDT prepared an interactive distance learning program for the members of the Albanian Electoral Commission. The program is based on the new legal background in Albania and summarizes the experiences from the successful and effective Hungarian Distance Learning System. With this project the ICDT aimed to ensure the background for the officials to prepare for the elections in Albania in June 2009. The ICDT plans to use this project as master project for a series of projects in other countries, which will face similar challenges in the upcoming years.

## TRAINING OF YOUNG MOLDOVAN POLITICIANS

*October 2008 to December 2008*

With regard to Moldova's 2009 elections, the project focused mainly on the election process and the functioning of the democratic institutional system. Young Moldovan politicians learned how to build, run, and use a political party in practice. In addition, the party representatives were provided with the know-how successful transition countries like Hungary have acquired in the organizing and functioning of democratic political parties, and received preparation for significant participation in the political life of Moldova. The participants met with representatives of Hungarian political parties, political

analysts, campaign groups, and experts in the field of political management. The experts, many of whom were involved in the first democratic elections in the region 20 years ago, shared their experience and gave advice on how to choose the best model for Moldova. Part of the training also included a site visit to the municipality of Eger, where the participants learned how parties work in a local government.



## SUPPORTING CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

*November 2008 to September 2009*

In this project the goal of the ICDT was to help facilitate the constitutional reform process by examining possible institutional and legal solutions. At a roundtable discussion in Sarajevo in December 2008 local and international experts discussed how

to build and drive a constitutional reform process that involves all major stakeholders, but also avoids the pitfalls that led to the failure of previous reform attempts. The event attracted significant attention and involvement in both the national and the international community. At a second meeting, the ICDT plans to analyze potentially applicable international models on federal structures and lessons learned of European integration by new member states from a constitutional point of view. At the same time, the ICDT seeks to target and involve parliamentarians in the discussions. As result of the project, specific recommendations will be developed with regard to shaping a new constitution and a framework outlined for future action.

#### PROVIDING SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR AFGHAN POLITICIANS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

*January 2009 to November 2009*

This project aims to prepare four electoral experts and 14 politicians of the Baghlan Province for the elections in Afghanistan. The two training sessions in Budapest will include field trips, lectures by Hungarian and international experts, and meetings with Hungarian politicians and high-ranking civil servants. The goal is to prepare qualified election officials who are ready to transfer and put the acquired knowledge and lessons learned into practice, and take the necessary steps to build a political community, including political parties and factions. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) and the Foundation for Afghanistan.

#### STUDY TOUR OF HUNGARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEM FOR NORTH KOREAN DOCTORS

*February 2009 – March 2009*

The ICDT sought to encourage North Korea in a multi-phase process for a gradual opening towards foreign countries by sharing Hungarian experience with

North Koreans representing various professional fields. This project focused on transferring theoretical and practical knowledge on modern medical technologies and methods, as well as on discussing the development of the Hungarian health care system from the 1980s to the current system.

#### ADVANCED RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON HUMAN SECURITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

*April 2009 – June 2009*

An advanced 3-days research workshop in Skopje in May brought together 15 experts and 30 practitioners from the Western Balkans and V4 countries to examine the perceptions on human security chal-



lenges in the region and to formulate ways to overcome them. The participants examined well-proven institutional models and ways to adopt them with focus on the promotion of regional civil society cooperation. In addition, they studied how NATO and EU engagement policies in Southeast Europe can be synchronized to catalyze the stabilization and integration of the region.

#### TRAINING MOLDOVAN POLITICIANS AND EXPERTS IN SECURITY POLICY

*August 2009 – December 2009*

This project aims to provide young Moldovan politicians and experts with fundamental knowledge, a tailored



toolkit, and an overview of the NATO countries' best practices, so as to create a military strategy based on the security concept approved by the Moldovan Parliament on May 8, 2008. The training concentrates on skills and activities needed for close cooperation between NGOs, international organizations, and politicians during the drafting period of the strategy. The ICDT's toolkit contains a communications strategy and a "Plan for Public Debates." The ultimate goal is to convince the young politicians and NGO leaders that Moldova can participate in peacekeeping and conflict prevention missions and stay neutral at the same time.

#### **ANNUS MIRABILIS: COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRANSITIONS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

*January 2009 – October 2009*

Central and Eastern Europe is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its countries' transitions in 2009. This project aims to analyze the political, historical, and social background of the late 1980s, to assess and synthesize the essence of the peaceful transitions of Central and Eastern Europe, and to commemorate the events of the exceptional year 1989. Throughout 2009, the Centre collected (and continues to collect) the experience and personal memories of key figures of the transitions and events in the late 1980s. Two of the main events, the '1989 - The Year of Change' conference in March and the Pan-European Picnic in August are described in greater detail in the events section of this brochure.

#### **ORAL HISTORY II**

*November 2008 – May 2010*

In the framework of this project, the ICDT is applying the "Oral History" methodology to conduct video interviews with 20 prominent figures of the political, economic, and social transition to democracy that took place in Central and Eastern Europe 20 years ago. The methodology aims to analyze personal experience and memories of those key contemporary witnesses. Based on the interviews, the Centre will publish three books addressing the 1989 events: the first will be the second volume of the book entitled 'Peaceful Transition,' containing edited versions of the Hungarian interviews; the second, a detailed study, which summarizes the conclusions of the Oral History interviews and draws lessons learned for other countries; and, the third, a survey based on interviews with non-Hungarian personalities touching upon the international environment of the transition and Hungary's outstanding foreign policy between 1987 and 1992.

#### **CIVIL SOCIETY AND STATE IN THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

*November 2008 – July 2009*

The goal of this project was to elaborate an objective and standardized index system in order to measure the relations between state and civil society in regions which are either at the genesis or in the process of democratic transition and social transformation. In the initial phase, a group of experts from the Western Balkans assessed the political, legal, economic, social, and cultural context in which civil societies function





in different countries of their region. They discussed and set the basic principles and methodology of the project and elaborated a draft index system. Based on this methodology, the index system was discussed and put through a “reality check” in several countries of the Western Balkans. As a result of this complex program, a standardized yet flexible evaluation system measuring state-civil society relations has been elaborated. In June 2009, the ICDT organized together with the Foundation for the Future (FFF) a two-day workshop in Amman, which discussed how this evaluation system can be adapted to the Middle East region. The ICDT is currently looking for funding to put this evaluation system to use and implement a survey on a larger scale on relations between state and civil society in several regions.

## EVENTS

### SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ICDT: “GLOBALIZATION AND DEMOCRACY”

Dr. Imre Szekeres, Minister of Defense of Hungary, inaugurated the ICDT’s Second Annual Conference on “Globalization and Democracy,” co-organized by the Centre for EuroAtlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), in the Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal on Monday, November 10, 2008. Afterwards, internationally renowned and distinguished leaders and experts presented and held open discussions on the influence of globalization on security, society, economy, and democratic transitions. These leaders and experts included, among others, Ricardo Lagos, former President of the Republic of Chile; Dr. Sima Samar, Chair of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission; Dr. MS Gill, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India; Governor George E. Pataki, Co-Chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force on Climate Change Issues; David J. Kramer, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; Alyson Bailes, former Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute; Dr. Andrei Illarionov, Director of

the Institute of Economic Analysis in Moscow; LT Gen. László Tömböl, Commander of the Hungarian Joint Forces; and Robert Benjamin, Senior Associate and Regional Director of Central and Eastern Europe Programs at NDI.

### PREPARATION OF A DEBRIEFING PAPER ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE’S CONFERENCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS “PEER TO PEER” PROJECT



Within the framework of cooperation with the Council of Europe, the ICDT summarized the shared Hungarian experience and the lessons learned at an international conference co-organized with the Council of Europe on “The Promotion and Protection by National Human Rights Structures of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” The conference was held in Budapest on December 2-3, 2008 and attended by about 50 people from the NHRS network representing 16 countries. The ICDT secured a Hungarian Government representative as speaker and an ICDT expert prepared the debriefing paper for the Council of Europe.





## ANNUS MIRABILIS: 1989 – THE YEAR OF CHANGE

Nine Budapest-based embassies and the ICDT commemorated the 20th anniversary of the CEE countries' transition to democracy on March 5, 2009 with the international conference entitled "1989 – The Year of Change." Prominent figures of the 1989 events – even though they stood on different sides of the Iron Curtain – all agreed on one fundamental point: the collapse of the Soviet Union was not a result of the actions of politicians, but was due to the optimism of, and pressures from, society. The speakers recalled their positive as well negative memories and encouraged a common European History of Freedom. While the first panel focused on the circumstances of 1989 and how the transition unfolded, the second panel offered a view from Western countries like France, Italy, and the United Kingdom. In the third panel – addressing issues related to interaction between states during the course of 1989 – foreign and Hungarian diplomats described how they saw the events from Budapest and from other European capitals. The last panel was dedicated to an analysis of states' internal policies, from the perspective of distinguished historians.

## PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HOLDS SESSION AT THE ICDT

In an historic first, the Hungarian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee did not hold its session in the Parliament itself, but at a different Budapest-based venue: the ICDT. As hosts of the March 24, 2009 session ICDT's President and CEO, István Gyarmati, and Vice President, Tamás Magyarics, presented a report on US foreign policy and relations with Hungary. "Hungary-US relations are not at all excellent these days and the next government will not be able to change the situation," stated Dr. Gyarmati at the committee's meeting. Gyarmati cited as the most apparent problems Hungary's hesitation toward the Nabucco gas pipeline project and what he termed a too strong friendship with Russia. Dr. Magyarics urged closer cooperation between the prime minister's office and the foreign and the defense ministries, so as to create a more effective policy towards the United States. Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Zsolt Nemeth said that the European Union was no longer the focus of the new US administration's foreign policy, whereas transatlantic relations were a priority in the Union's common foreign and security policy. The session concluded with a lively conversation on the





ICDT projects and project proposals, as well as an exchange of views regarding American foreign policy.

#### **ANNUS MIRABILIS: PAN-EUROPEAN PICNIC IN SOPRON**

On August 17-19, 2009 the municipal administration of Sopron celebrated, in cooperation with the ICDT, the Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy and others, the 20th Anniversary of the Pan-European Picnic and the border breakthrough that took place in Sopron in 1989.

The ICDT contributed to the “Conference of Historians,” on August 17, by holding a “Round Table Discussion with Leaders of the System Change.” In the discussion, Iván Bába, István Hegedűs, Csaba Kiss, Imre Mécs, and Zsolt Németh described the complexity of the 1989 events and shared their personal experience with the audience. Thanks to the interaction of the participants the round table offered an outstanding approach and was a great asset to the overall event. One of the event’s highlights was a video message from former U.S. President, George H. W. Bush, recalling his personal memories of the summer of 1989. Furthermore, a “Memorial Conference” commemorated 1989 with speeches of witnesses and protagonists and discussed the results of the Pan-European Picnic and Hungary’s special role in the events at the border. In addition, a “Jubilee Celebration” was held on August 19 with

guests of honor Dr. László Sólyom, President of the Hungarian Republic, and Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany,

Other noted guests of the event included ICDT invitees Alexander Kozulin, former Leader of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party; Andrej Sannikov, former Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus; as well as the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Carl Bildt, and Pavol Demes, the Director of the Bratislava Office of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

#### **CENTRAL EUROPEAN TASK FORCE**

“Why the Obama administration should not take Central and Eastern Europe for granted.” This was the topic of the Task Force Policy Brief by the German Marshall Fund of the United States published on July 13, 2009. The Task Force members recommended closer CEE and US cooperation. The ICDT reedited the Policy Brief as an Open Letter to the Obama Administration and the letter was signed by presidents and foreign ministers from the region. The objective of the letter was to provoke a public debate and to shake up American and European politicians. Signatories included Valdas Adamkus, Martin Butora, Emil Constantinescu, Pavol Demes, Lubos Dobrovsky, Matyas Eorsi, Istvan Gyarmati, Vaclav Havel, Geza Jeszenszky, Rastislav Kacer, Sandra Kalniete, Karel Schwarzenberg, Michal Kovac, Ivan Krastev, Aleksander Kwasniewski, Mart Laar, Kadri





Liik, Janos Martonyi, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Adam Rotfeld, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Alexandr Vondra, and Lech Walesa. The Open Letter provoked a public debate on US-European relations and caused many positive as well as some critical reactions.

#### **EUROPEAN TRANSITION COMPENDIUM INITIATIVE ROUNDTABLE**

On September 24, 2009, the ICDT organized, in cooperation with the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a roundtable discussion on the experience of political and institutional reforms in Hungary during the period of democratic transition. Guest of honor was the consultant of the EU's European Transition Compendium (ETC) initiative, Adolfo Sanchez, who headed up a multi-disciplinary panel of experts in his work to compile and summarize the transition experience and best practices of new Member States – on this occasion with special emphasis on Hungary. The ETC project aims to create a compendium of knowledge and expertise based on the common democratic tradition and the transition experience of the EU-12. The compendium will become an important tool in EU development policy by sharing this knowledge and expertise with developing countries. The ICDT welcomes the ETC initiative and is looking forward to working with the European Union, its Member States, and other NGOs to realize the compendium.

## **GOALS FOR 2010**

### *Deepening Activities in Geographical Regions*

#### **WESTERN BALKANS AND EASTERN EUROPE**

The ICDT plans to deepen and intensify its existing activities in 2010 based on the lessons it has already learned. The main objective will continue to be to deepen its presence, knowledge and work in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. The Caucasus will also be of continued focus, just as the Eastern European region and the Caucasus will be targeted regions within the context of the Eastern Partnership. Furthermore the ICDT will continue to work in countries where the ICDT, given a certain thematic focus, can make use of its experience and competencies to benefit the target groups. The ICDT will continue to establish its presence on the country level in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans through on-going projects, as well as on the interregional level, such as through the “Sharing the Experience of the Visegrad Cooperation with the Western Balkans and Eastern Neighborhood” project continuing throughout 2009 and 2010.

#### **THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST**

In addition, the ICDT wants to continue extending and deepening its sphere of activities in the Broader Middle East. The ICDT plans to continue developing comprehensive programs for the Middle East countries and Afghanistan. For that reason the Centre has already established important partnerships with local NGOs and in particular the Foundation for the Future.

### Expanding Network of Partnerships

Throughout the past few years, the ICDT has built several partnerships with international organizations and NGOs. In addition to continuing these efforts, the ICDT plans to engage more local and grass-roots organizations in its target countries in order to guarantee efficient project implementation, to build on their knowledge, and to enable the sustainability of project results after a project's closing.

### Reinforcing Research Capability and Activities

At its inception the ICDT positioned itself primarily as an "action tank," as opposed to a "think tank," meaning that so far it has concentrated more on practical action than on research. From

2009 onward, the Centre will intensify its research function in order to more thoroughly analyze the process of democratic transitions. One step in this operational adjustment will be to start developing policy briefs related to the work of the ICDT; these policy briefs will serve ongoing projects by providing an additional element for analyzing and influencing the transition process. This practice will begin by the end of 2009/early 2010 and continue throughout 2010. The continuation of the Oral History project and the "Measuring the Relationships between State and Civil Society during the Process of Democratic Transition and Social Transformation" project have led the way in 2009 and more thorough research projects are expected to follow.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE 2010

PROGRAM AREAS	CORE COMPETENCIES	GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS
<i>Sustainable Democracy</i>	Enhancing Minority Integration, Empowerment of Vulnerable and Underrepresented Groups	Middle East Western Balkans
	Development of Civil Society and Citizen Participation in Politics	Eastern Europe Western Balkans
<i>Interregional Cooperation</i>	Enhancing Regional Cooperation	Eastern Europe Western Balkans
	Regional Cooperation and Human Security	
<i>Toolbox for Democracy</i>	Capacity Building for Members of Parliament	Afghanistan
	Training of Politicians	Eastern Europe
	Promoting Good Governance and Good Institutions ⇒ Electoral reform ⇒ Constitutional reform ⇒ Ombudsman institutions	Eastern Europe Western Balkans
	Local communities and civil society development	Moldova Western Balkans
<i>Research and Analysis</i>	State and the Civil Society	Central and Eastern Europe Western Balkans
	Oral History	Central and Eastern Europe Hungary



## FINANCIAL SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDING

During its four years of existence the ICDT has been successful in raising EUR 3 523 959. Approximately 52% of this amount came from the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help startup financing and selected projects. Its current contributors are the Governments of Estonia, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, and Switzerland, the German Marshall Fund, the Helen Bader Foundation, the Hungarian National Cultural Fund, International Visegrad Fund, NATO PPD, and EEA - Norwegian Financial Mechanism. For a complete list of the ICDT's donors, please have a look at the 'Donors' section of the Centre's website [www.icdt.hu](http://www.icdt.hu)

2006 • EUR 553 785  
 2007 • EUR 1 110 417  
 2008 • EUR 689 701  
 2009 • EUR 1 178 054

PROJECT	BUDGET	DONOR
ADVANCED RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON HUMAN SECURITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS	35,000.00 EUR	NATO PPD
TRAINING MOLDOVAN POLITICIANS AND EXPERTS IN SECURITY POLICY	58,000.00 EUR	NATO PPD
CENTRAL EUROPEAN TASK FORCE	20,000.00 EUR	German Marshall Fund
STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW INSTITUTIONS IN MOLDOVA: THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND THE OMBUDSMAN SERVICE	27,000.00 EUR	Government of Estonia
ENHANCING MINORITY INTEGRATION THROUGH IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON THE USE OF LANGUAGES IN KOSOVO	50,000.00 EUR	Government of Luxembourg
STUDY TOUR OF HUNGARIAN MEDICAL SYSTEM FOR NORTH KOREAN DOCTORS	23,500.00 EUR	Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PROVIDING SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR AFGHAN POLITICIANS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS	145,000.00 EUR	Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SHARING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE VISEGRAD COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND THE EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD	469,004.00 EUR 21,000.00 EUR	EEA – Norwegian Financial Mechanism Visegrad Fund

# PERSONNEL

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The International Board of Directors consists of prominent personalities from the areas of international politics, economics, the arts, and the sciences. Among other duties, this body approves the annual work plan and the strategy of the ICDT and consults on the annual budget

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The Executive Committee consists of five internationally recognized figures from the scientific and public arenas, elected for a term of three years by the International Board based on the recommendations of the President of the Centre. This body prepares the decisions of the International Board.

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Mrs. **Sonja Licht**, President and Founder of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Serbia

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The members of the GAB represent their governments. This body serves as an organized form of communication with the democratic governments of the world. So far over 40 democracies have delegated a representative to the ICDT's Governmental Advisory Board, which advises and appraises the work of the Centre and makes proposals for specific projects.

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