

# Introduction

USAID is proud to present the 2006 NGO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. This year the Index reports on 28 countries, plus Kosovo (which is reported on separately.)

This is the 10th edition of the Index. To mark this milestone, this year's Index includes a special feature, "*USAID NGO Sustainability Index: A Ten-Year Retrospective*" highlighting trends in each dimension of the index over its history. The Index also features a second article, by David Stulik, entitled "*Civil Society in Central Europe: An Ever-Changing Landscape: How NGOs Have Adapted to Shifting Donor Strategies.*" The article examines the most visible trends, factors and externalities that have affected the remarkable transformation of civil society in Central Europe, and attempts to summarize lessons learned for countries moving from transition to consolidated democracies.

The 2006 Index includes at the outset of each report a statistical summary showing this year's scores for each dimension, plus the overall score, as well as identification of the capital, population, and a summary of basic economic indicators. Reports include comparative information regarding prior years' dimension scores, encapsulated in easy-to-read charts. The Index further includes statistical appendices summarizing this year's dimension scores as well as scores for 1997-2006.

A publication of this type would not be possible without the contributions of many. Specific acknowledgements of the USAID field personnel and NGO implementers responsible for the Index appear on the following page. USAID would also like to thank the local NGOs who helped to organize expert group discussions and draft reports in many of the countries. We would further like to express our deepest gratitude to all of the local NGO experts, USAID partners, and international donors who participated in the expert group discussions in each country. Their knowledge, perceptions, ideas, observations, and contributions are the foundation upon which this Index is based.