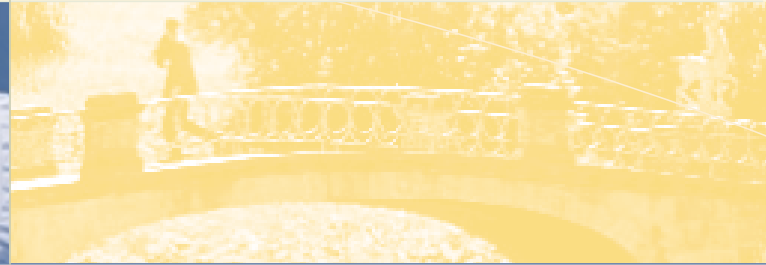
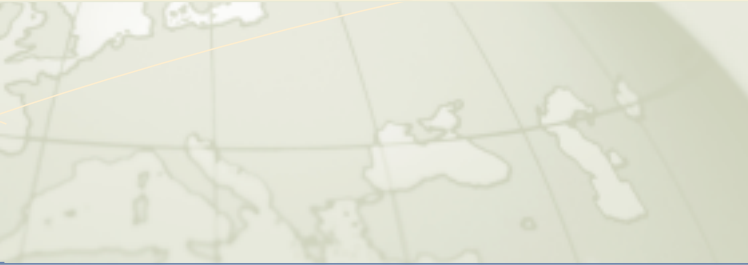


I R E X 2 0 0 0



A N N U A L R E P O R T



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Through an extensive international network of representatives and field offices from Prague to Vladivostok, IREX administers a range of programs between the United States and the countries of Eastern Europe, the New Independent States (NIS), Central Asia, the Caucasus, Asia, and the Near East.

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cities

**26**  
countries

**16** time zones

The span of  
IREX  
worldwide

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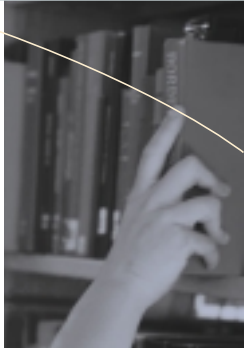
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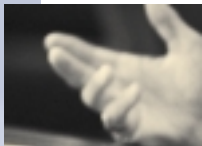
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# The span of IREX worldwide



IREX is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge. Central to its mission is the empowering of individuals and institutions to participate meaningfully in civil society. IREX administers programs between the United States and the countries of Eastern Europe, the New Independent States, Asia, and the Near East.



## Letter from the President



IREX can look to many successes in 2000. For instance, we provided over 350 academic and research fellowships, trained over 6,000 individuals in Internet and computer use, and made 190 institutional subgrants, including several to independent Serbian and Kosovar media. We are also proud of continuing to streamline our administrative expenses, making IREX a more professional and competitive organization.

Past accomplishments alone, however, are not sufficient. We need to look ahead and continue to improve. To enhance our leadership role, we are engaged in strategic planning and developing innovative programming that draws on IREX's extensive academic resources and experience in running exchanges, training programs, and technical assistance efforts. Let me cite two examples.

IREX has been in the vanguard of redefining traditional area studies models. Recently we introduced a bold new program—the Black and Caspian Sea Collaborative Research Program—that examines the political, economic, and cultural interactions among the littoral states. At its core, this is an academic program, providing grants for joint regional research by American and international scholars. But it also extends the impact of the research by directly addressing policy matters, business development, and social issues.

Just as regional distinctions are changing, so too are the lines between program areas. For example, the divide between media and the Internet or the Internet and academia is becoming less pronounced. To explore this new

phenomenon, IREX is organizing a conference entitled, “Russia in the Information Age: Balancing Regulation and Freedom,” that will analyze the digital divide, Russian law and the Internet, and the impact of the Internet on research, media, and business. The conference will be followed by an interactive on-line Center for Internet and Governance.

IREX administers many different programs, ranging from policy forums to independent media and NGO development. Our goal for the coming year is to continue integrating our traditional focus on academic work and research with our programs that build civil society, making sure all programming is mutually reinforcing. This is a big challenge, and we're ready to meet it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. Poma".

Academic and research programs are at The development of a civil society relies upon the knowledge and skills of its citizens and institutions. For over thirty years IREX programs have advanced the education and expertise of thousands of students, scholars, and professionals in over 30 countries. Through exchange programs, research grants, conferences, and alumni support services, IREX cultivates informed societies and cultural understanding between and



CI fellows at program orientation learning Internet search skills at the Library of Congress to maximize their use of resources in their research. Maybe add another short sentence to fill up this space, thank you.

among the United States, Eastern Europe, the New Independent States, the Near East, and Asia.

In 2000 IREX:

- ▶ Awarded individual fellowships to 110 US and 250 international students, scholars, and professionals for study, research, and collaborative projects;

- ▶ Organized nearly 250 alumni events attended by over 7,000 scholars, students, policymakers, and business and NGO leaders; and

- ▶ Provided information on US study opportunities to over 100,000 students seeking to pursue an education in the United States.

#### PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

Svetlana Pouchkareva has invigorated a small foundation in her hometown of Togliatti, Russia by developing and implementing new fundraising strategies, recruiting volunteers, and giving

training sessions on community development to other local NGOs. She developed the skills for this position in Oxford, Ohio while participating in the **Russian-US Young Leadership Fellows for Public Service Program (YLF)**, where she assisted a local foundation in its fundraising efforts and established a Russian club as a language and cultural resource for college students and the community.

#### HELPING ALUMNI MAKE AN IMPACT AT HOME

Citizens of Georgia came a step closer to overcoming the country's serious hepatitis problem when 2,000 copies of the booklet *Hepatitis C: The Hidden Epidemic* were distributed free of charge to public health workers and blood banks across the nation. The booklet, which details disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, was published through an ECA Alumni Small Grant awarded to Georgia native Ketevan Stvilia.

### HELPING CORPORATIONS STAY ON TOP

Over 50 Romanian and international companies and 170 Romanian young professionals gathered in Bucharest to participate in the first Return to Romania Career Development Project (RTR) Job Fair. The fair presented a unique opportunity for employers and job seekers to meet face to face and match corporate strategies with individual career plans. As a direct result of the conference, over a dozen RTR participants secured employment.

### SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

Graduate student Mark Zimny spent his nine-month Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO) scholarship in Warsaw studying the social consequences of post-

communist democratization in Poland, Russia, and Lithuania. Specifically, he examined the development and prevalence of severe alcoholism within groups of youth and adults and the resultant effects on mortality rates and social problems, such as increases in violent crime. Although these issues have been studied in other contexts, Zimny's work was innovative in how it considered the extent that these problems are sociological effects of transitioning nations.

### DEVELOPING NEW AREA STUDIES

In the last decade, the area of the Black and Caspian Seas has developed as a crucial geopolitical region. To address this issue, IREX hosted the "Regional Dynamics of the Black and



Slrina Aervitz, Russian YLF fellow 1999-2000, interned in the office of Senator Voinovich (R-OH), where she learned about US government firsthand, complementing her formal study of international relations.

Caspian Sea Basins" conference in Odesa, Ukraine. Approximately 60 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and the United States convened to discuss the current body of knowledge on this area and the increasing trend toward regional integration. The conference also launched a series of IREX initiatives—including the Collaborative Grants Program—to bring scholars together to research in more depth issues affecting the region.



Providing open access to information is central to IREX's mission. Through its innovative Internet and computer training programs, IREX empowers academics, professionals, and other NIS citizens to use the opportunities of the Internet to transform their societies. IREX works to bridge the digital divide between east and west through its management of more than 50 public access sites, part of the ECA-funded Internet Access and Training Program (IATP), and through its specialized grant programs. In 2000 alone IREX provided e-mail accounts and Internet access to 6,000 individuals per month; trained more than 6,200 people to use computers; and hosted more than 460 web sites and 30 mailing lists.

#### CREATING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

IREX opened its groundbreaking IATP site in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, providing the only free access to the Internet in the entire country. The site has been essential to scholars like

Fulbright alumnus Kamoludin Abdullaev who used the site's resources to exchange research with Tajik experts worldwide and complete the book *Politics of Compromise: The Tajikistan Peace Process*.

#### PROVIDING SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The conclusion of the **Internet Training for Journalists program (ITJ)** in Bosnia and Herzegovina yielded impressive results following two years of hard work. IREX conducted 33 training seminars, instructing 118 journalists how to conduct on-line research to access more accurate and more timely information. Support for journalists in the region also included donations and installations of computer and satellite equipment at selected media outlets and the development and launching of an ITJ web site for journalists. IREX continues to provide

support for journalists in the region through its ProMedia programs.

#### OPENING DOORS

In 2000, IREX opened three new IATP sites in Belarus, creating a total network of five sites spread across the country with hundreds of e-mail users, newly created web sites, and a broad computer training portfolio. In politically repressive countries such as Belarus, IREX Internet programs represent an unrestricted window to Western media and democratic thinking via the World Wide Web.



Alumna of US-government sponsored program using a computer at the opening of the Dushanbe, Tajikistan IATP site, the only free Internet access source in the country.



Independent media are essential to citizen decision-makers in democratic societies. IREX has been supporting independent print and broadcast media in new democracies of Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe for over six years by producing change in four areas: business performance, media law, professional standards, and institutional support. Currently managing Professional Media II (ProMedia) in ten countries, IREX's media programs combine many of IREX's traditional strengths—professional training, institution building, exchange of experience and knowledge—and focus them on this single, critically important sector.

## BUILDING MEDIA RESOURCES

In Kosovo, IREX's USAID-funded ProMedia program led the international effort that built the Kosovo Terrestrial Transmission Network (KTTN), making independent radio and television available to the majority of the province's 1.8 million inhabi-

tants. Having met the technical challenges of building this multi-tower system on hilly terrain in a brief amount of time, IREX's next task is to assist the transfer of administration to an independent Kosovar nongovernmental organization.

## PROMOTING NEW SOURCES OF INDEPENDENT NEWS

IREX worked through all stages of design, launch, and expansion of the independent Croatian Commercial Network (CCN), which has now com-



pleted its first year of broadcasting. In this short time it has developed a solid reputation for objective, informative news reporting.

## PROTECTING JOURNALISTS

Through the Legal Defense and Education Program (LDEP) in Ukraine, IREX has had real impact on the ability of public officials to use defamation actions to silence journalists. LDEP has educated Ukraine's supreme and lower court justices on their own "public figure doctrine" and free-speech rights, resulting in more victories for media in libel and defamation cases.

## ADVOCATING MEDIA LEGISLATION

With IREX's guidance, Bulgarian media NGOs and free speech advocates were able to get the *Access to Public Information Law* passed in the country's parliament. With the threat of incarceration for libel charges gone, the Bulgarian media are able to print and broadcast more balanced and honest news.

As a result of IREX's assistance through the ProMedia program, Belarusian journalists are better able to cover national and international events.



Subgrantees of the Clean Home-ISC partnership, "Young Naturalists," plant flowers along the Greenway in Nizhnii Tagil, Russia. The youth, as part of a larger alliance being formed for the maintenance of public spaces, have already planted over 1,000 trees and shrubs and 8,000 flowers.

IREX capacity-building and training programs empower individuals and organizations to promote democratization and economic growth, the building blocks of a strong civil society. IREX manages targeted grants to support community-based organizations that respond to local needs and deliver practical services. Sectors and organizations receiving direct support from IREX include women's crisis centers that fight domestic violence, environmental and human rights organizations, and associations for the disabled, homeless, and children.

## ATTAINING PRACTICAL RESULTS

There is an urgent need to raise public awareness of domestic violence in the Russian Federation and to provide services such as psychological and legal counseling to victims. IREX addresses this need through the USAID-funded **Program to Support Crisis Centers for Women in Russia (WCC)**, providing training and small grants to more than 40 grassroots women's crisis centers. The Voronezh Social Movement and Crisis Center, for example, used a grant to establish a hotline that has assisted 1,640 individuals in its first six months. Outreach efforts by the center have further resulted in the local government's decision to set aside part of a new local homeless shelter for battered women and their children seeking refuge.

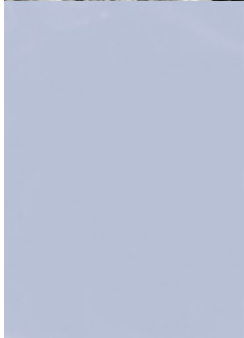
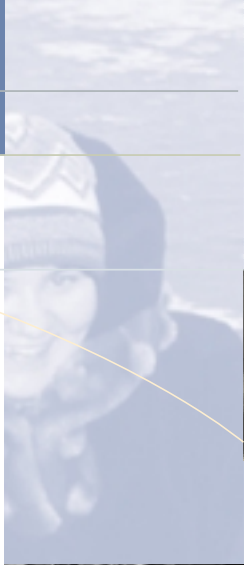
## CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

The quality of life for city residents in Nizhnii Tagil, Russia has been improving since Clean Home of Nizhnii

Tagil and The Institute for Sustainable Communities of Montpelier, VT began working together through the USAID-funded **Sustaining Partnerships into the Next Century (SPAN)** program. Together they are working to create a path of undeveloped, protected land, known as the Greenway, that provides a natural environment where people can get away from the smog and pollution of this heavily industrialized city.

## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONAL NETWORKS

IREX has begun to support a network of more than 6,000 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) through the **Promoting and Strengthening Russian NGO Development Program (Pro-NGO)**, awarded by USAID in 2000. Over the course of the three-year program, IREX will provide core funding to approximately 22 NGO resource centers in 19 regions of Russia focusing on social welfare, political advocacy, youth, and health care.



## Creating mutually reinforcing programs

IREX's broad programming efforts reinforce each other in their joint objective to build democracy and provide access to information. The capacity of one program often strengthens the abilities of another. Supporting independent media organizations is more effective when access to and knowledge of the Internet is available; fellows and scholars who return to their home countries from exchange programs are often aided in their professional efforts by NGO strengthening projects; and other mutually overlapping efforts. Below are some examples where IREX successes crossed from one traditional range of programming to another, proving that diverse programming can be mutually reinforcing, and that individual programs can have far-reaching effects.

In Kosovo, IREX's ProMedia project helped found KosovaLive, an independent news agency that provides a new kind of domestic information service to Kosovar citizens and the interna-

tional community. Providing real-time news and information completely on-line, KosovaLive has taken advantage of the enormous benefits offered by modern technology.

American Young Leaders Fellowship recipient Kirill Shamin volunteers at the Rostov Resource Center, which is part of IREX's Pro-NGO network. Shamin's work at the center, complemented by his participation in multiple regional NGO conferences, aids him in his efforts to develop methods for strengthening NGOs in southern Russia.

Mahbuba Ergasheva has made noteworthy contributions towards women's issues in her native Uzbekistan by founding and managing the NGO Center for Women Leaders, developing a web site that addresses the challenges facing women in Uzbekistan, and representing her country at international conferences on gender issues. Her experience in the United States as a Contemporary Issues fellow and her fre-

quent use of the IREX Internet public access sites in Tashkent have strengthened her organization and significantly aided her efforts to raise awareness of this topic.

CI fellow or alumna performing research in a library.  
Leave space for second line for her name, where she is from, and what she is studying



Fiscal year 2000 was an exceptional year for IREX, marked by several significant accomplishments including an increase in revenue from the previous year of 76% and an increase in net assets of 12%. During this period of unprecedented growth IREX was also able to reduce its administrative expenses by 28%.

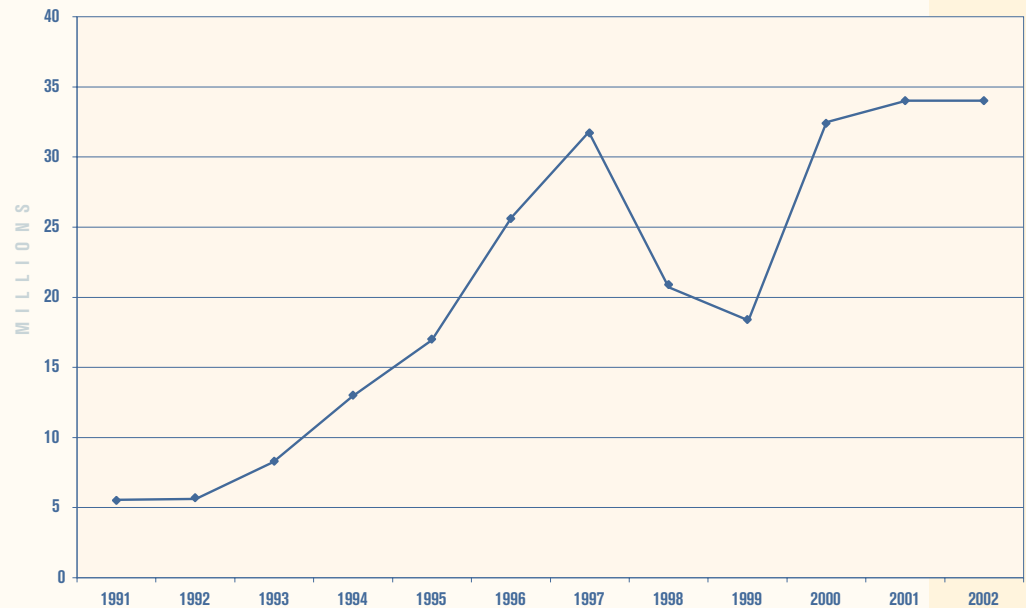
As shown by the chart on this page, IREX's revenue has grown from \$5.5 million in 1991 to \$32 million in 2000. The challenge that IREX faces over the next several years is to maintain revenue at a consistent level while at the same time keeping our administrative cost to a level which will allow us to provide support to all of our program divisions while remaining competitive.

The attached Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets have been audited by IREX's long standing CPA firm, Keller Bruner & Company, LLP.

**Stephen S. Wolk**  
*Vice President for Finance & Administration*

## IREX REVENUE 1991 - 2000

WITH BUDGETS FOR 2001 AND 2002



BUDGET FOR 2001 AND 2002

# Statement of activities and changes in net assets

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2000 [WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1999]

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL 2000	TOTAL 1999
<b>Revenue and Support:</b>					
Grants and contributions	\$26,384,018	\$3,430,250	-	\$29,814,268	\$18,195,107
In-kind support	2,436,682	-	-	2,436,682	-
Other revenue	204,169	-	-	204,169	240,603
Net assets released from restrictions	2,033,274	(2,033,274)	-	-	-
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>31,058,143</b>	<b>1,396,976</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,455,119</b>	<b>18,435,710</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Program activities	28,135,903	-	-	28,135,903	17,226,941
General administration	3,892,102	-	-	3,892,102	5,400,139
Program campaign	71,894	-	-	71,894	134,802
	32,099,899	-	-	32,099,899	22,761,882
<b>Change in net assets before investment income</b>	<b>(1,041,756)</b>	<b>1,396,976</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>355,220</b>	<b>(4,326,172)</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>	<b>195,385</b>	<b>121,881</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>317,266</b>	<b>1,099,678</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(846,371)</b>	<b>1,518,857</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>672,486</b>	<b>(3,226,494)</b>
<b>Net Assets (deficit):</b>					
Beginning	402,242	2,066,183	2,920,000	5,388,425	8,614,919
Ending	\$(444,129)	\$3,585,040	\$2,920,000	\$6,060,911	\$5,388,425

See Notes to Financial Statement.

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 China Resident Fellows Program (Starr)  
 Community Connections: Russia, Armenia,  
 Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan (ECA)  
 Computer-Based Testing Centers (Prometric)  
 Alumni Small Grants Program (ECA)  
 Education Information Centers (ECA)  
 Elementary-Level Teacher Training in Armenia  
 (ECA, The City of Alexandria, Virginia's  
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 FSA Contemporary Issues Fellowships (ECA)  
 Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Program (ECA)

Fulbright Senior Scholar Program  
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 Individual Advanced Research Opportunities  
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 Internet Access and Training Program: Caucasus,  
 Central Asia, Western NIS (ECA)  
 Internet Training for Journalists: Bosnia  
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 IREX Consortium for the Humanities  
 and Social Sciences (Carnegie)  
 Media Internships for Southeastern Europe Program (ECA)  
 Mongolian Language Training Program (Luce)  
 Mongolia Research Fellowship Program (Luce)  
 NATO Open Internet Exchange (NATO)  
 Policy Forums (INR)  
 The Promoting and Strengthening Russian NGO  
 Development Program (Pro-NGO) (USAID)  
 Program to Support Crisis Centers for Women  
 in Russia (USAID)  
 Professional Media Programs (USAID)  
 Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (ECA)  
 Regional Scholar Exchange Program (ECA)  
 Return to Romania Project (USAID)  
 Ron Brown Fellowship Program (ECA)  
 Russian-US Young Leadership Fellows  
 for Public Service Program (ECA)  
 Short-Term Travel Grants Program (NEH, INR)  
 Social Sciences and Curriculum Development (ECA)  
 Sustaining Partnerships into the Next  
 Century Project (USAID)



IREX gratefully acknowledges the following institutions and individuals for their support during the period January 1 - December 31, 2000.

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