Civic Education Project

Mission Statement

The Civic Education Project, an international non-profit organization rooted in the belief that democratic society requires critically minded and informed individuals, works to enhance the development of higher and professional education in societies engaged in political and economic transition.

WHAT IS CEP?
The Civic Education Project (CEP) aims to contribute to the development of future generations of social science academics in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia and to help build inclusive academic networks locally, regionally and globally. It pursues these goals through the acquisition, development and exchange of knowledge, resources, and methods focused on student-centered learning and academic quality. Through its work, CEP promotes the engagement of universities in the community, believing that they form a fundamental part of civil society.

PROGRAMS
CEP began in 1991 by placing fifteen Visiting Lecturers at eight universities in Czechoslovakia. In 1996 the Eastern Scholar Program was launched to help regional universities retain promising young local scholars who are essential to the revitalization of departments and to the sustainability of reforms in higher education. The synergy and complementarity between these two programs has become the foundation of CEP’s on-going work and has led to the decision to rename the programs the Local and Visiting Faculty Fellowship Programs.

“...a strong ‘team’ attitude developed between me and the two CEP Local Faculty Fellows at the University. The combination of Western and local perspectives was very effective.”

Alan Purcell, CEP Visiting Faculty Fellow
Dnipropetrovsk State University, Ukraine

CEP now has more than 270 Fellows teaching at nearly 100 universities in ten Country & Regional Programs:
- Belarus, Ukraine & Moldova
- Bulgaria
- Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
- Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)
- Central Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia)
- Romania
- Russia
- Southeast Europe (Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia)

[The use of specific place names does not reflect any position on questions of changing or maintaining current internationally recognized borders.]

The Local Faculty Fellowship Program represents a conscious strategy to reverse “brain drain” from the region by supporting talented individuals who, after studying abroad, return to university positions in their home countries. CEP offers these scholars financial, institutional and professional development support for at least one academic year. Without this support, many of these scholars could not pursue or continue their academic careers.

“When I returned from studying in the West I was full of ideas and initiative. With CEP’s help I was able to distribute the knowledge I obtained to the students of my country. Otherwise my Western education would have been in vain, as no other organization was willing to invest in me returning to teach in my home country.”

Liliana Punga, CEP Local Faculty Fellow
Kharkiv Humanities University, Ukraine

The Visiting Faculty Fellowship Program brings scholars from around the world to teach for at least one academic year at universities in Eastern Europe or Eurasia. These Fellows receive a basic package of support, including allowances for teaching materials. By introducing critical thinking, academic writing, research and analytical skills, Visiting Fellows expose their students and faculty colleagues to a new and exciting range of materials and methodologies.

“It would be difficult to imagine how our department could have reached its current level of activity without the assistance of the foreign lecturers who have taught here thanks to this program.”

Vlastimil Fiala
Head of Department of Politics and European Studies
Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

As part of their work, Fellows are also involved in numerous projects in support of and beyond their teaching. Specific areas of focus include curriculum development, faculty training, and improvement of library resources. In addition, CEP and its Fellows organize and participate in faculty and student academic conferences, roundtables, debates, moot courts and other events.

The Fellowship Programs also encompass professional development and the support of teaching and research. CEP’s long-standing commitment to teaching excellence is furthered by the Teaching and Learning Initiative, which aims to promote the best educational practices through training events, workshops, conferences, and the provision of support materials. Many of these events and activities also involve non-CEP colleagues so that the benefits are more widely accessible. The Academic Network Initiative provides a forum for regional and international collaboration and exchange of ideas and scholarship. Each CEP discipline area is provided with a web-based virtual environment, as well as logistical support and advice for projects.

HOW IS CEP DIFFERENT?
Focus on Teaching and Students
CEP stresses the value of sustained contact between Fellows and their students as a mechanism for change. Many students in the region are unfamiliar with asking questions in class, which CEP Fellows address by bringing scholars from around the world to teach for at least one academic year at universities in Eastern Europe or Eurasia. These Fellows receive a basic package of support, including allowances for teaching materials. By introducing critical thinking, academic writing, research and analytical skills, Visiting Fellows expose their students and faculty colleagues to a new and exciting range of materials and methodologies.

“It would be difficult to imagine how our department could have reached its current level of activity without the assistance of the foreign lecturers who have taught here thanks to this program.”

Vlastimil Fiala
Head of Department of Politics and European Studies
Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

As part of their work, Fellows are also involved in numerous projects in support of and beyond their teaching. Specific areas of focus include curriculum development, faculty training, and improvement of library resources. In addition, CEP and its Fellows organize and participate in faculty and student academic conferences, roundtables, debates, moot courts and other events.

The Fellowship Programs also encompass professional development and the support of teaching and research. CEP’s long-standing commitment to teaching excellence is furthered by the Teaching and Learning Initiative, which aims to promote the best educational practices through training events, workshops, conferences, and the provision of support materials. Many of these events and activities also involve non-CEP colleagues so that the benefits are more widely accessible. The Academic Network Initiative provides a forum for regional and international collaboration and exchange of ideas and scholarship. Each CEP discipline area is provided with a web-based virtual environment, as well as logistical support and advice for projects.
Cooperation in the Region

CEP’s partner universities stretch from the Czech Republic to Mongolia and from Siberia to Albania. Whereas many organizations concentrate their efforts primarily in the capital city, CEP and its Fellows develop relationships across the whole country and promote interaction with provincial universities. Recognizing the long-term strategic importance of increased communication and cooperation among countries in the region, CEP regularly sponsors roundtables, conferences and workshops where Fellows from Central and Eastern Europe meet with their counterparts from Eurasia to exchange ideas about, and share their experiences of, reform in higher education.

The CEP Community

CEP builds a support network of contacts and resources for its Fellows that helps overcome isolation and encourages collaboration and joint projects. Regular opportunities exist for Fellows to meet and exchange ideas at national and regional retreats, conferences and workshops.

Continuity

Fellows work within CEP for at least one academic year, which allows them adequate time to develop strong relationships with their students, their faculty colleagues, and the CEP community. This time frame allows Fellows to understand the situation at their universities, and to follow through with projects and initiatives. Continuity is often enhanced by the fact that many partner universities host a series of Fellows, thereby strengthening the CEP impact and increasing the sustainability of reform.

“I would compare CEP to a rolling snowball. It is seemingly small, but may trigger considerable change. CEP really motivates scholars and their students alike, thus creating a fruitful academic partnership between them. I hope that some of my students will become the CEP Fellows of the near future, and the ball rolls on.”

Monika Pal, CEP Local Faculty Fellow
Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration, Hungary

COURSES

CEP Fellows teach in a variety of discipline-areas within the social sciences, including:

- Anthropology
- Area/Regional Studies
- Economics
- Environmental Policy
- European Studies
- Gender and Culture
- History
- International Relations
- Law and Legal Studies
- Media Studies/Journalism
- Political Science
- Public Administration
- Public Policy
- Sociology

For Muskie/Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Program Alumni only, fellowships are also available in the fields of Business Administration, Education, Public Health, Library and Information Sciences.

SUPPORT FOR CEP

Principal funding for CEP comes from the Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Institute. Additional support is provided by a variety of international organizations, foundations, corporations, governments and individuals. If you are interested in learning how you or your organization can contribute to CEP, please contact one of our offices or visit our website.

EUROPEAN OFFICE

Civic Education Project
H–1051 Budapest, Szent István tér 11/B, HUNGARY
Tel: (36-1) 327-3219 Fax: (36-1) 327-3221
E-mail: cep@cepnet.hu

UNITED STATES OFFICE

Civic Education Project
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite # 506
Washington, D.C. 20036-2001, USA
Tel: (1-202) 663-7793 Fax: (1-202) 663-7799
E-mail: cepdc@jhu.edu

www.cep.org.hu