



## **THE CENTRAL EURASIA PROJECT'S OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS: BUILDING OPEN SOCIETY IN CENTRAL ASIA & SOUTH CAUCASUS**

The Open Society Institute (OSI), a private operating and grant-making foundation, aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. OSI was created in 1993 by investor and philanthropist George Soros to support his foundations in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. OSI has expanded the activities of the Soros foundations network to other areas of the world where the transition to democracy is of particular concern. Active in more than 70 countries, the Open Society Institute works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Working with local communities, the Open Society Institute supports justice and human rights, freedom of expression and access to public health and education.

The Central Eurasia Project (CEP) is one of OSI's regional initiatives. CEP's mission is to promote social progress and human rights in the South Caucasus and Central Asia. In doing so, CEP coordinates closely with the Soros Foundations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. CEP also manages OSI's activities related to those closed society countries in the region without national foundations, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The programmatic areas of CEP include human rights, labor migration, electricity and hydropower governance, and social and economic policy. The instruments of CEP's work to pursue its mission are research and advocacy, public information, and targeted grants.

#### **OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES**

CEP is looking for authors who are interested in contributing to CEP's Occasional Papers. The Occasional Papers is a new series of well written papers that will explore under-researched issues and trends that are important for OSI's efforts to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. As such, they will inform OSI's programmatic approaches in the region, but will also serve to introduce these issues into the discussion of the wider community of policy makers, analysts, academics, practitioners and others who take an interest in that work on Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Long-term challenges to the development of open societies in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus remain insufficiently discussed in the West. While there are a few outlets for high-policy related discussions or mediums that address academic questions whose practical value is limited, there is a need for a paper series that identifies challenges to open society and its supporters in Central Asia and the Caucasus, discusses potential approaches to achieve solutions, and opens these issues to the informed public for debate. While the Occasional Papers will primarily serve an OSI audience, they will also be distributed widely to the interested NGO, academic, policy-making and professional community except in special cases.

CEP is looking for contributors who are interested in authoring a paper of about 25 – 30 pages. Applications are welcome from individuals from a variety of backgrounds including researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and PhD students from the former Soviet Union, U.S. and Europe. CEP is especially interested in papers that would cover the following topics:

- Freedom of religion in Central Asia and the South Caucasus: Issues and Implications
- Understanding Islamic civil society in Central Asia
- China's role in Central Asia
- CASAREM challenges for Central Asia: Transparency, accountability and domestic energy security
- Public utilities (gas, water, electricity) issues in Central Asia and the South Caucasus
- The War on Terror in Central Asia: Ramifications for Human Rights, Societies and States
- Minority rights in Central Asia and the South Caucasus
- Civil societies role in legal remedies for environmental issues in Central Asia and the South Caucasus
- Implications of information and communication technologies for democratic governance and practice
- Cotton monoculture and agricultural reform in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

Proposals for papers on other topics related to open society values in Central Asia and the South Caucasus are also welcome.

Interested authors should apply by sending in a complete application package consisting of:

- Expose of the paper no longer than three pages,
- Remuneration requirement,
- CV,
- Writing samples

in English by email to [ceppapers@sorosny.org](mailto:ceppapers@sorosny.org). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed by an expert committee. Successful proposals should be finalized into full papers within two months; drafts will be peer reviewed before the final drafts are published. A limited amount of travel money is available for selected papers that require field research.

New York, April 29, 2010