

## **OPEN SOCIETY IN EASTERN EUROPE**



# Open Society in Eastern Europe



Since the creation of the first foundation in Hungary 25 years ago, the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations have made education reform and inclusion a major priority in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Support for programs from early childhood to higher education continues today with the goal of helping all young people become informed and active citizens.

Young women participating in local group that provides language and art classes and counseling, Akhaltsikhe, Georgia | MARIA STEEN

The Open Society Institute since 1995  
has supported hundreds of programs  
in Eastern Europe to reduce HIV and  
other harms related to injecting drug use.

It advocates for drug policy reforms to  
increase the availability and quality of needle  
exchange, drug dependence treatment,  
and treatment for HIV.

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Returning used syringes to a mobile needle exchange van, St. Petersburg, Russia | LORENA ROS



The struggle to eliminate discrimination against minorities has gained ground over the years, with more and more people willing to publicly show their support. With hard times bringing new episodes of discrimination and violence, the Open Society Institute is increasing its efforts to fund education and legal responses to the problem.

Participants march in a nonpartisan, peaceful demonstration against discrimination and violence, Budapest, Hungary, 2008 | FERENC ISZA

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To strengthen democracy in Eastern Europe, the Open Society Institute continues to support measures to ensure free and fair elections. During election campaigns, the Soros foundations focus attention on crucial open society issues, provide the public with information about candidates, and monitor voter registration and vote counting.

