

EVALUATION SUMMARY



Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of Policy and Evaluation

FREEDOM Support Act Educational Partnerships Program

The purpose of the evaluation was to document the outcomes and impact of the FSA Educational Partnerships Program (EPP) and to assess the degree to which it has been successful in meeting its goals of: a) creating sustainable institutional partnerships between American and Eurasian universities; b) developing programs and curricula relevant to economic and political realities; c) expanding the professional capabilities and capacities of participants; d) creating ways of sharing new expertise with the local communities; e) leveraging private sector support for programs that meet local need; and f) fostering internationalism and understanding of the cultures of their respective countries.

Key Findings

- **Institutional partnerships between American and Eurasian universities**
 - Over 80 U.S. universities and 130 Eurasian universities participated in the program between 1993 and 2001.
 - Nearly 84 percent of the Eurasian project directors and 70% of U.S. project directors reported that they continue to cooperate with their partner university after the official completion of their grants.
- **New programs and revised curricula**
 - All partnerships resulted in new or revised courses, curricula or programs of study. Nearly all of the survey respondents indicated that the new and revised curricula were “very much” or “somewhat” aligned with the demands of a democratic government (93.2%), better aligned with the needs of a market economy (90.3%) and with the needs of employers (90.4%).
 - Participation in the program enhanced the reputation of the Eurasian partner institutions, attracting a greater number of applicants.
- **Expanded professional capabilities and capacities**
 - Eurasian faculty increased their use of interacting teaching methods, including seminars and group work, case studies, use of media and communication technologies, and more frequent and creative student assessment.
- **New community outreach endeavors**
 - Eurasian partners opened legal clinics, community training centers, teacher resource centers, and established non-governmental organizations to share their expertise with their communities.
- **Mutual Understanding**
 - Over 94% of respondents agreed that the program fostered closer relations between partner countries (90.3%), improved international cooperation (93.2), and facilitated close personal ties (92.0%).

Project Information: Aguirre International collected data for the evaluation between February and October 2003 in seven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. In total, 591 administrators, project directors, and faculty responded (460 from Eurasia and 131 from the U. S.). One hundred and five (or 83%) of all partnerships included in the evaluation were represented by these respondents.

Program Information: The EPP is administered by the Office of Global Educational Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Three-year grants are awarded to U.S. universities with identified foreign partners through open-grant competition. Funds are used to support curriculum, faculty development, collaborative research and outreach activities with a long-term impact. Grants are awarded in areas critical to the development of democracy and the market economy: business and economics; educational administration and civic and continuing education; public administration and policy; law; journalism.

Contact Information: For more information regarding this evaluation, or to request a copy of the report, please contact the Office of Policy and Evaluation at (202) 632-6325, email ecavaluation@state.gov, or by mail at State Annex 5, 2200 C Street Northwest Washington, DC 20522-0505. Additional program information may be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov>.