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T H E E U R A S I A F O U N D A T I O N

M o s c o w R e g i o n a l O f f i c e

Open Society Institute
Education Support Program

bm:bwk

Memorandum of understanding

Between

Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
the Eurasia Foundation (Moscow Regional Office)
and the General Education Sub Board (Open Society Institute)

Concerning the Eurasia Foundation *Education Programs.*

The Eurasia Foundation and the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) are jointly implementing a large-scale initiative aimed to improve the quality of education in Russia. The program will promote innovative models in the spheres of education management and policy that will enable Russia to establish a modern, market-responsive education system to aid its economic growth and social revival. It will also focus on improving the management of institutions of higher education, encouraging universities across Russia to serve as community resources, and building regional and international networking and public expertise capacity in the education sphere.

The launch of the education initiative represents a new program area for the Eurasia Foundation, as it endeavors to update and modernize its grantmaking programs in order to address current development needs in Russia.

Adequate support for the Education Program initiatives will be best realized through a wide network of partners working at various levels. The EF Education Program thus works closely with a range of partners, including the Austrian government and OSI Budapest, on numerous issues including the strategic development of the project, training and consultancy support, project management and monitoring and evaluation.

In the partnership between the Austrian government and the Eurasia Foundation, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture will:

- identify and attract suitable individuals and institutions within Austria for involvement in the Education program, and will cover related international travel and professional costs
- support through its cooperation agencies the mutually agreed relationship projects.

The Eurasia Foundation Education Program will:

- provide related costs (local travel and accommodation and when necessary, a per diem) for approved experts and institutions
- support the mutually agreed relationship projects

The General Education Sub Board (GESB) of the Open Society Institute, via the Education Support Program (ESP) at OSI Budapest will:

- cover related costs as agreed on by the partners
- this support will be provided through a grant to Interkulturelles Zentrum in Vienna

While a more comprehensive understanding and schedule of work may be developed to the mutual satisfaction of all partners, this letter serves as an initial statement of our intention to co-operate on this initiative. EF is fully committed to building equitable and mutually beneficial relationships with all partners and greatly welcomes the opportunity to work with like-minded Austrians to make a contribution to education reform in Russia.

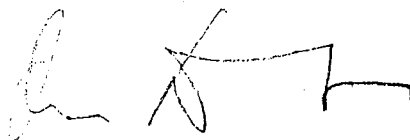
Vienna, 22 December 2003



Andrei Kortunov

Vice - President

The Eurasia
Foundation – Russia



Anton Dobart

Director General

Austrian Federal Ministry of
Education, Science and
Culture



Elena Lenskaya

Chairman

General Education
Sub Board (Open
Society Institute)

Memorandum of understanding
between Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and
the representative office of the "Open Society Institute, Assistance Foundation"
in Russia (OSI)

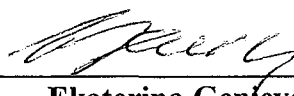
concerning the 'Megaproject' Development of Education in Russia (OSI).


The Megaproject aims to contribute to the momentum for change in general education in Russia through strengthening effective regional leadership and informing the development of national education policy. The main objective is to build effective and replicable models for educational change in nine pilot regions. In support of this, the Megaproject strives to provide a supportive environment for the development, sustainability and dissemination of the 'good practice' achieved in these regions.

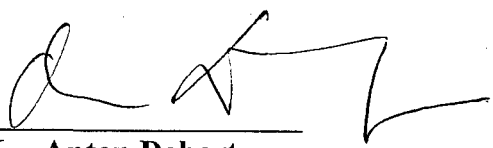
Adequate support for the regional initiatives will be best realized through a wide network of partners working at various levels. The Megaproject thus works closely with a range of partners, including federal and regional governments, the World Bank, the British Council, the government of Finland and a range of Russian experts and institutions, on numerous issues including the strategic development of the project, training and consultancy support, project management and monitoring and evaluation.

In the partnership between the Austrian government and the OSI, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture will identify and suitable individuals and institutions within Austria for involvement in the Megaproject, and will cover related professional costs. The OSI Megaproject will provide all related travel costs (including travel and accommodation and when necessary, a per diem) for approved experts and institutions on the territory of the Russian Federation.

While a more comprehensive understanding and schedule of work may be developed to our mutual satisfaction, this letter serves as an initial statement of our intention to co-operate on this initiative. OSI is fully committed to building equitable and mutually beneficial relationships with all partners and greatly welcomes the opportunity to work with like-minded Austrians to make a contribution to education reform in Russia.


Ekaterina Gemeva
 President of the
 Open Society Institute –
 Russia


Bill Newton Smith
 Education Sub-board
 Chairman
 Open Society Institute


Anton Dobart
 Director General
 Austrian Federal
 Ministry of Education,
 Science and Culture