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Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program
Foreign Policy Research Institute

THINK TANKS
AND
CIVIL SOCIETIES
PROGRAM

"Helping Bridge the Gap
Between Knowledge
And Policy"

2007 SURVEY OF THINK TANKS
EASTERN EUROPE & THE FORMER USSR
SUMMARY REPORT

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program is pleased to announce the release of the **Regional Report on Eastern European Think Tanks**. This report is one in a series that are drawn from the **Global Trends and Transitions: 2007 Survey of Think Tanks**, an in-depth survey of all known public policy research organizations, or "think tanks," worldwide. The Think Tank and Civil Societies Program "the 'think tanks' think tank" specializes in the study of research organizations; the survey was carried out in order to develop an empirical base for further research on trends that are currently affecting think tanks. The findings contained in the report are a follow up to the 1999 comprehensive assessment of this class of institutions. We expect that this study will make a major contribution to the understanding of public policy research organizations, and is likely to become an important reference point for donors, policy makers, and civil society groups that are interested in working with these important institutions. **A summary of the findings for Eastern Europe and the Former USSR is provided below.**

E. Europe & the former USSR	
Albania	9
Armenia	7
Azerbaijan	7
Belarus	6
Bosnia & Herzegovina	3
Bulgaria	28
Croatia	10
Czech Republic	23
Estonia	9
Georgia	7
Hungary	30
Kazakhstan	7
Latvia	5
Lithuania	10
Macedonia (FYR)	10
Moldova	2
Montenegro	3
Poland	35
Romania	50
Russia	104
Serbia	20
Slovakia	11
Slovenia	32
Tajikstan	1
Turkmenistan	0
Ukraine	43
Uzbekistan	3
Total	483

Table 1.0 - Number of Think Tanks

REGION	# Institutes Responding	# Institutes Database
S. & E. Asia	77	548
E. Europe	173	480
W. Europe	282	1187
Africa	69	265
Latin America	67	462
Middle East	51	188
Aus. & NZ	16	32
U.S. & Canada	293	1873
Total Worldwide	1028	5035

Surveys were emailed and mailed to 5,035 think tanks in 169 countries, and of these, 1,028 institutions responded from 134 countries (20.42% global response rate). **Of the 480 think tanks in Eastern Europe, 173 institutions**

responded (36.04% response rate). Each respondent was asked to provide the following information: year established, annual budget, number of staff, type of

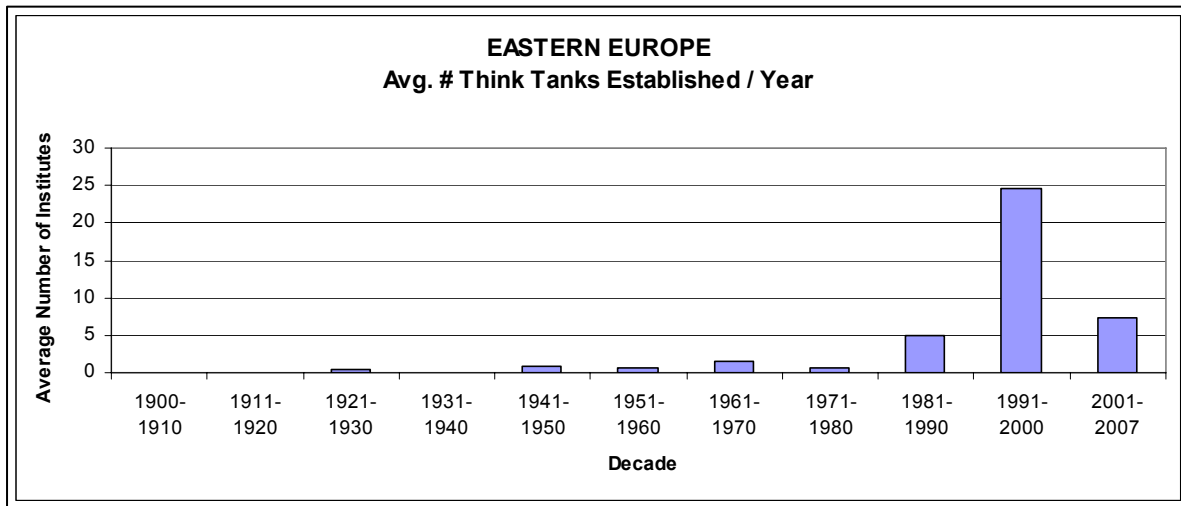
activities, and types of research. Optional questions included the following: products and services, income, sources of funding, expenditure levels, deficits or surpluses, and value of endowment. Please note that each responding institution did not necessarily answer questions in each category, which accounts for the variations in the total number of responses for certain questions. In Eastern Europe, a drastic decrease in the response rate, as compared to 1999, occurred which requires further analysis.

The trends illustrated in this report help to show some of the current and future challenges and opportunities that think tanks are encountering. It is important to note that the data for the decade beginning in 2000 does not cover a full decade but strong trends are clearly evident. We believe these

trends will only be reinforced with additional data and research. The findings of the study are summarized in the following charts and graphs.

The first Eastern European think tanks were established in the 1940's and 50's to research government policy. Having little freedom to work outside of what the government decreed, only a few think tanks existed before the breakup of the Soviet Union. However, the subsequent demise of the regime led to an explosion of think tank activity. For our purposes, **Eastern Europe includes the Russian Federation and the republics and former satellites of what was once the Soviet Union including the former Yugoslavia.** This division of Eastern and Western Europe along the lines of the Cold War was judged necessary because it demonstrates the effect that the end of the Cold War had on the growth of think tanks in the region.

The charts and graphs provided represent the number of think tanks established per year in Eastern Europe. The data is based on the information gathered from the 173 think tanks that provided background information. This information included address and date established but may not have furnished answers to other questions on the survey. Please note that information regarding the number of think tanks established per year in Eastern Europe was gathered not only through surveys, but also through the Think Tanks and Civil Societies' directory of think tanks. This directory includes the date established for each institution listed in the directory. As a result, this information is more comprehensive than other sections of the report.

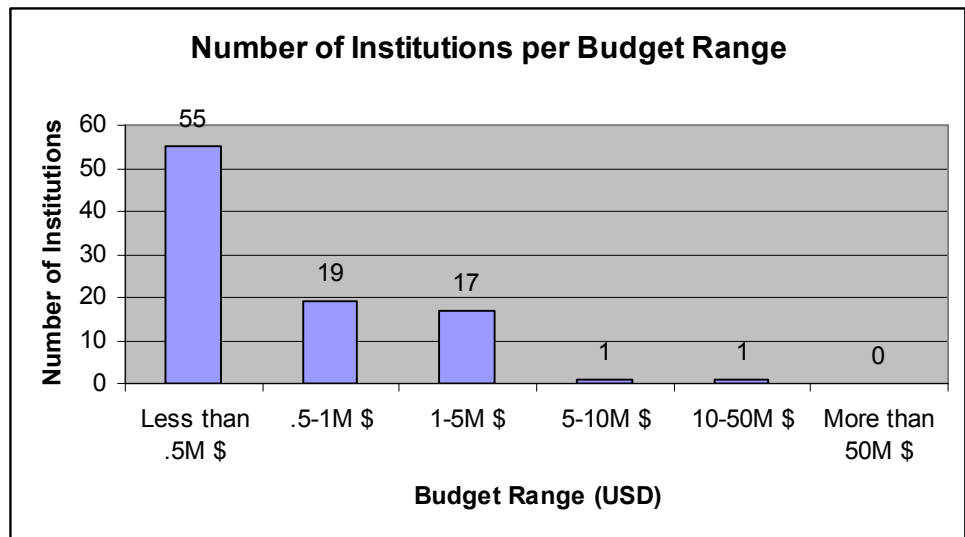


The Breakup of the USSR led to a Think Tank Explosion that has Since Slowed

Of all of the regions of the world, Eastern Europe experienced the most drastic increase in think tanks in the 1990's. This can most likely be attributed to the demise of the communist regime, the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, and the consequent establishment of a more politically and economically open region. However, since 2001 Eastern Europe has followed the global trend and the number of institutions established has slowed down, even as some states were either hoping to or about to join the European Union. While 24.5 think tanks were established per year from 1991 to 2000 in Eastern Europe, only 7.4 institutions have been founded per year in the seven year period between 2001 and 2007.

Most Think Tanks Operate on Budgets Less than \$0.5 Million

Of the 93 institutes in Eastern Europe, 55 have budgets of less than \$500,000; 19 have a budget range of \$500,000 to \$1 million; 17 have a range of \$1 million to \$5 million; 1 has a range of \$5 million to \$10 million; 1 has a budget range of \$10 million to \$50 million; and no Eastern European institutes have a budget of more than \$50 million. The average budget of this



region has seen an increase since the 1999 Report but it is not significant despite the fact that the number of institutes responding to the budget question has nearly doubled. While few institutes report a large budget, it should be noted that this is often a sensitive topic and many think tanks choose not to answer the question.

Majority Employ Less than 50 Staff Members

In Eastern Europe, the majority of think tanks employ less than 50 people. It is quite worthwhile to note that while Eastern Europe has a small absolute number of think tanks, the increased amount of staff as compared to other regions shows high amounts of consolidation of think tanks.

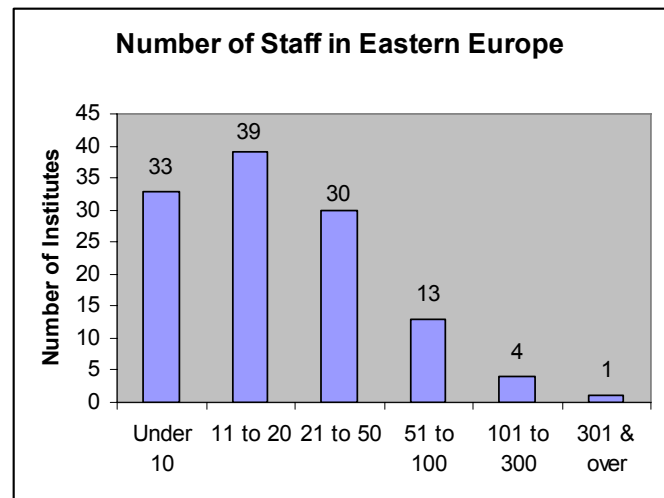


Table 2.0 – Average Staff Size

Average Staff Size (For institutes responding)		
Total	31.75	121
Research Staff	22.22	118
Admin & Support	10.99	108

Table 2.1 – Median Staff Size

	Low	Median	High
Total	2	15	436*
Research Staff	0	10	426
Admin & Support	0	5	315

*Data reported by ANKIETER Market & Social Research (Poland) reported as 408 interviewers, 18 regional co-ordinators, 7 data punchers, 3 office staff. Data compiled as follows: 408 interviewers + 18 regional co-ordinators = 426 Research Staff.

Think Tank Activities Have Become More Specialized

Table 3.0 – Activities (1999)

Region (# Institutes Responding)	E. Europe (76)
Policy Research	65 (85.53%)
Scholarly Work	35 (46.05%)
Public Education	34 (44.74%)
Contract Work	32 (42.11%)
Training & Technical Assistance	31 (40.79%)
Policy Advocacy	31 (40.79%)

Table 3.1 – Activities (2006-7)

Region (# Institutes Responding)	E. Europe (172)
Policy Research	76 (44.19%)
Scholarly Work	65 (37.80%)
Public Education	8 (4.65%)
Contract Work	32 (18.60%)
Training & Technical Assistance	17 (9.88%)
Policy Advocacy	14 (8.14%)

In the 1999 Report, although fewer institutes responded to the survey, a greater number engaged in a wider range of activities. In contrast, the 2006-7 survey only saw a rise in the absolute number of think tanks conducting Policy Research while all other activities plummeted.

Think Tank Research has risen considerably

Table 4.0 – Types of Research (1999)

Region (# Institutes Responding)	E. Europe (198)
Social	33 (16.67%)
Domestic Economy	39 (19.70%)
Regional Studies	41 (20.71%)
International Economy	19 (9.60%)
Environment	22 (11.11%)
Education	21 (10.61%)
National Security	21 (10.61%)
Other	2 (1.01%)

Table 4.1 – Types of Research (2006-7)

Region (# Institutes Responding)	E. Europe (158)
Social	66 (41.77%)
Domestic Economy	55 (34.80%)
Regional Studies	61 (38.60%)
International Economy	24 (15.83%)
Environment	12 (7.59%)
Education	41 (25.94%)
National Security	33 (20.88%)
International Cooperation & Development	30 (18.98%)
Other	48 (30.37%)

The amount of research has risen considerably since the 1999 survey was taken. The recent involvement of many states with the European Union could account for this rise, especially since regional studies and social research has exploded in growth. One of the most surprising findings is the dramatic decline in Environmental research, especially considering lingering environmental problems in the region. There was also a notable rise in the number of institutions that listed their research under the “Other” category.

Responses to the “Other” category include:

- Public administration
- Ethnic issues/ minority studies/ human rights
- Financial issues (especially Public Finance)
- Media Research
- European integration
- Health Policy (21 think tanks included Health Policy as a type of research, indicating that this may be an area of future detailed study.)

Eastern Europe is Producing More Products and Services

Table 5.0 – Products and Services

# Responded to this question	Percentages (Products/Services) *	Percentages % **
113	Products (26%) / Services (64%)	(2)(5)(43)(14)(6) (6)(4)(4)(5)(11)

* This includes Seminars, Publications, conferences, newsletters, monographs, policy briefs, books

** In the activities (products and services) section of the Profile Update Survey, each institute was given the following choices to choose from: journal articles (includes chapters in books), books, newsletters, policy briefs, media appearances, newspaper and other.

Table 1.1 – Types of Products and Services

# Seminars and Conferences	# Trainings and Public Education	# Journal Articles, Newsletters & Newspaper Articles
2,487	2,012	2,670

Books	Media Appearances	Policy Briefs	Policy Maker Briefings & Advisings
457	N/A	835	1,400

Newsletters	Newspaper Articles	Journal Articles	Webhits
1,169	3,148	2,407	6,682,116

While the think tanks number highly, the relatively low amount of publications for these think tanks, which could be attributed to low funding and staff means that these institutions still have to take some steps before they can affect policy in the ways seen in Western Europe or North America. Though publications are low in number, the wide range of research topics still provides many possibilities for policy implementation by the national governments.



Summary for Eastern Europe & the Former USSR

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Establishment Rate

- Of all of the regions of the world, Eastern Europe experienced the most drastic increase in think tanks in the 1990's at the conclusion of the Cold War. This can most likely be attributed to the demise of the communist regime, the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, and the consequent establishment of a more politically and economically open region.
- Since 2001, there has been a drastic decrease in the number of institutions established per year. While 24.5 think tanks were established per year from 1991 to 2000 in Eastern Europe, only 7.43 institutions have been founded per year in the seven-year period between 2001 and 2007.

Budget

- Of the 93 institutes in Eastern Europe, 55 have budgets of less than \$500,000; 19 have a budget range of \$500,000 to \$1 million; 17 have a range of \$1 million to \$5 million; 1 has a range of \$5 million to \$10 million; 1 has a budget range of \$10 million to \$50 million; and no Eastern European institutes have a budget of more than \$50 million.
- The average budget of this region has increased since the 1999 Report, but this rise is not significant.

Staff Numbers

- The majority of think tanks employ between 11 and 20 people.
- A high percentage of them also employ less than ten people.
- In terms of the average number of people employed per think tank, Eastern Europe is very similar to Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Types of Activities

- From 1999 to 2006-7, Eastern Europe has witnessed a drastic decline in think tanks conducting activities related to public education (decline from 34 to 8), training and technology (decline from 31 to 17), and policy advocacy (decline from 31 to 14).

Types of Research

- Regional studies have become much more prominent in Eastern Europe since 1999. The percentage of think tanks conducting regional studies in 2006-2007 was 38.61% of think tanks responding to the survey, compared with 20.71% in 1999. In this regard, Eastern Europe is very similar to the Middle East and Asia.
- Educational research greatly increased from 1999 to 2006-7 in Eastern Europe from 21 to 41 think tanks.
- The number of think tanks conducting national security research grew considerably from 21 or 10.61% to 33 or 20.89% between 1999 and 2006-7.
- Overall, there is an increasing diversification in what think tanks have chosen to research.
- A sharp decline in Environmental research despite several environmental problems inherited from the USSR.

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Conclusion

In terms of think tank activity, one would expect the states that have recently acceded to the EU to have the most think tank activity. Indeed, the 12 EU states contain most of the think tanks in the region, as well as more think tanks than countries around the world with similar population levels with the exception of Western Europe. However, two notable outliers, Russia and the Ukraine need to also be considered in the drastic steps undertaken by the states in the 1990's to smoothly transition to a democratic and largely free market system. This said, a major area of concern is the several post-Soviet states that seem to have been left behind, where there is no notable public sector and where little think tank activity occurs.

While the new EU states have recently been looking outward, new policy will need to be implemented if they are to continue to remain economically competitive on a regional and world scale. In addition, while great strides have been made since 1991, the public sector still has room for some growth. The growth of think tanks comprises just one part of an overall boom in civil society in these countries, a growth that can help sustain democracy and stability in the once-troubled region. If the ultimate goal, however, is to become on par with their Western European counterparts, Eastern European think tanks will need to continue to produce timely and accessible policy oriented research that effectively engages policymakers, the press and the public on critical issues facing Eastern Europe and the rest of the world.



Other Reports

In addition to this report, we have prepared overviews of Think Tank activity in North America, Western Europe, the Middle East, Asia/Pacific, Africa and Latin America in addition to our *Global Trends and Transitions: 2007 Survey of Think Tanks*. If you are interested in viewing these, please contact Dr. James G. McGann, E-Mail: JM@fpri.org Fax: (215) 732-4401 Phone: (215) 732-3774 ext. 209.

Appendix I*

This list of the leading think tanks provided below was prepared for the Global Think Net Study (McGann, August 2006.) The organizations that were identified for inclusion in the universe provided below have been recommended by a panel of think tank administrators, scholars, donors and policy makers. This group included over 70 scholars of think tanks, 24 directors of regional and global think tank networks, 400 executives of think tanks around the world, 20 foundation and NGO executives who fund think tanks, and 4 intergovernmental organizations with think tank programs. The panel was asked to identify think tanks with a reputation for producing high quality research and analysis on both domestic and international policy issues, a regional and/or global reach with their programs and publications, frequent citations or mentions in scholarly and popular publications (generated via Lexis-Nexis). This effort resulted in the identification of the over 200 think tanks from every region of the world. We then circulated the list of 200 non-U.S think tanks to think tanks around the world and asked them to select the top 50 think tanks from the list. We excluded U.S. think tanks because we felt it might lead to overrepresentation of think tanks based in the United States. Vote responses, coupled with our own research and assessment, have yielded the top 50 think tanks globally:

East European and FSU Think Tanks Considered for the Top 50

Eastern European Think & FSU Tanks Considered for the Top 50	Country
Adriatic Institute for Public Policy	Croatia
Center for Policy Providus	Latvia
Free Market Center	Serbia & Montenegro
Institute for Market Economics	Bulgaria
Institute for Security and International Studies	Bulgaria
Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognosis (ISSP)	Montenegro
Institute of Europe	Russia
Institute of Far Eastern Studies (IFES), Russian Academy of Sciences	Russia
Institute of Urban Economics	Russia
Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO)	Russia
International Center for Policy Studies	Ukraine
Liberalni Institut	Czech Republic
Lithuanian Free Market Institute	Lithuania
New Economic School-Georgia	Georgia
PIR Center (Policy Research in Russia)	Russia
Slovak Foreign Policy Association	Slovakia
Ukraine Center for European Policy Studies	Ukraine
USA/Canada Institute	Russia

* Chart obtained from the Global Think Net Study (McGann, August 2006).

Think Tank and Civil Societies Program

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Foreign Policy Research Institute examines the role policy institutes play in governments and in civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the '**think tank's think tank,**' TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. The Program is directed by James G. McGann, Ph.D. a Senior Fellow at FPRI and President of McGann Associates, a program and management consulting firm specializing in the challenges facing think tanks, international organizations and philanthropic institutions. Over the last 20 years the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making and strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program works with some of the leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs. If you would like additional information about our publications and programs contact JM@fpri.org.

Research Team

James McGann is an FPRI senior fellow and director of its Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program. He is also an assistant professor of Political Science at Villanova University and president and founding partner of McGann Associates, a program and management consulting firm specializing in the challenges facing think tanks, policymakers, international organizations and philanthropic institutions.

Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank, United Nations, United States Agency for International Development, Soros, Hewlett and Gates Foundations and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in civil society. He has served as the senior vice-president for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the public policy program officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts, the assistant director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, at Harvard University, and a senior advisor to the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.

Among Dr. McGann's publications are *Competition for Dollars, Scholars and Influence In The Public Policy Research Industry* (University Press of America 1995), *The International Survey of Think Tanks* (FPRI, 1999), *Think Tanks and Civil Societies: Catalyst for Ideas and Action*, co-edited with Kent B. Weaver (Transaction Publishers 2000), *Comparative Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy* (Edward Elgar 2005), *Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the U.S: Academics, Advisors and Advocates* (Routledge, 2007), *Think Tanks Catalysts for Democratization and Market Reform* (Forthcoming) and *Global Trends and Transitions: 2007 Survey of Think Tanks* (Forthcoming).

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Please check the appropriate box(es) below:

Yes, I would like to receive a copies research conducted on the issues facing think tanks & policy makers.

Yes, I would like to know more about Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program.

Yes, I would like to be on your mailing list.

Please complete the 2007 Update by answering all the questions listed below. Thanks for your help.

1. Name of Institution: _____

2. Address: _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code _____ Country: _____

3. Phone: _____ 4. Fax: _____

5. E-Mail: _____ 6. Website: _____

7. Executive Director/Chief Executive Name: _____

8. Contact Person's Name _____ Email address: _____

8. Date Established: _____ 9. Total Annual Budget--Year _____:US\$ _____

Thank you for you for taking the time to help me keep your contact information up-to-date.

Please let me know about any new thinks tanks in your area and please email me copies of directories and lists of think tanks in your country and region of the world so I can make sure they are all in our database?

I need your help so I can keep the Global Directory of Think Tanks up to date, so please keep me informed about think tank developments in your area.

Finally, if you know of any think tanks that have opened or closed in the last 12 months I would appreciate if you would share their names and addresses with me.

Thanks for your continued interest and support of my research. Jim McGann