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Supporting open media
w o r l d w i d e

2004
ANNUAL REPORT

About Internews



INTERNEWS INTERNATIONAL® supports open media worldwide. The association fosters independent media in emerging democracies, trains journalists and station managers in the standards and practices of professional journalism, produces innovative television and radio programming and Internet content, and uses the media to reduce conflict within and between countries. Internews programs are based on the conviction that vigorous and diverse mass media form an essential cornerstone of a free and open society.



DAVID TRILLING/INTERNEWS

INTERNEWS projects currently span Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

BASED in Paris, Internews International (II) is an association made up of fourteen non-governmental organizations, which work in 47 countries. Its members are funded primarily by grants from foundations, governments, and individuals.

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Profile: Rustavi-2 and the Power of Independent Media



NON-VIOLENT uprising in November of 2003 led to the resignation of the president of Georgia in what became known as the “Rose Revolution.” One of the star players in this historic event was the gutsy, independent television station Rustavi-2. As the only broadcaster willing to stand up to the government and inform the public about vote fraud and the protests that followed, Rustavi-2 helped catalyze the mass mobilization of the population.

“Rustavi-2 is a great example of the powerful and constructive role that independent media can play in society,” said John Boit, Internews’ Regional Director for Europe and Eurasia.

“When the political fate of Georgia was hanging by a thread in late 2003, Rustavi-2 used its power masterfully, in effect giving citizens instructions on how to avoid violence and yet still make their voices heard.”

For ten years the station has worked fearlessly to expose government corruption and abuses of power, paying a high price for its uncompromising stance. A top journalist and anchor of a political talk show was murdered, a grenade was thrown at the station, and various government agencies harassed the station with tax audits, legal actions, and a long delay in granting a national broadcast license.

Despite these obstacles, Rustavi-2 has become the leading independent TV station in Georgia and the acknowledged model for non-governmental stations throughout the South Caucasus region.

Georgian TV station Rustavi-2 played an instrumental role in Georgia’s non-violent “Rose Revolution.”



DAVID TRILLING/INTERNEWS

“In our ten years of existence we have always strived to inspire active engagement by Georgian citizens in the public life of the country,” said Erosi Kitsmarishvili, Director General and co-founder of Rustavi-2.

Since starting work in Georgia in 1994, Internews has provided extensive support to Rustavi-2, including training staff in investigative journalism and news reporting skills, and providing management, technical, and legal advice. When the government unsuccessfully tried to shut down the station in 1995 and again in 1996, Internews Georgia organized local and international campaigns in support of the station.

Rustavi-2 has won the admiration and respect of media professionals worldwide. In April 2004, this courageous Georgian television station received the National Association of Broadcasters award for “International Broadcasting Excellence.” And in July of 2004, Rustavi-2 became an associate member of Internews International.

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Internews Highlights



THE following photos feature some of Internews' current activities fostering open and independent media around the world. As of July 2004, Internews had worked with **2600 radio and television stations** and print publications, and had trained **32,000 media professionals worldwide**.* Last year Internews produced or facilitated the production of **1500 hours of television and radio programming**, which reached a potential audience of 199 million radio listeners and 152 million TV viewers. Internews has advocated for **fair media laws** in seventeen countries, and has worked for open and **accessible Internet policy** and liberalized telecommunications policy in 34 countries.

* Training figure includes each media professional at each Internews training event. Some individuals participate in multiple trainings.



INDIA

The Global Internet Policy Initiative, a project of Internews and the Center for Democracy and Technology, promotes the growth of an open and democratic Internet in India and fourteen other developing countries.

Photos: India: Chris Stowers/India Panos. Pakistan: Sara Fareed/UKS Foundation. Central Europe: Internews Romania. Southeast Asia: Guy Sharett. Middle East: Shannon York/Internews. Afghanistan: David Trilling/Internews. Africa: Gboyega Sotunde/Internews. New Independent States: Internews Azerbaijan.



Internews has trained Pakistan's first generation of non-governmental women radio journalists. With support from Internews, these women produce the country's first independent syndicated program that features women as both producers and subjects.

PAKISTAN



To promote information access for all, Internews' dot-GOV project works for open and fair telecommunications policy in 23 developing nations. In Romania, dot-GOV has established telecenters in remote regions and advises the government on technical issues.

CENTRAL EUROPE



In a traditional Thai ceremony, a Buddhist monk blesses the opening of Internews' new regional office in Bangkok in July. The office provides support for Internews' work promoting independent broadcast and print media throughout Asia.

SOUTHEAST ASIA





In nine countries of the Middle East and North Africa, Internews has trained hundreds of print and electronic journalists in accurate, responsible journalism. Participants are encouraged to develop a code of ethics to guide them in reporting on a range of issues.

MIDDLE EAST ◀



Internews has built twenty radio stations across Afghanistan to date, with plans for at least a dozen more as part of a national network of independent local stations. Internews Afghanistan's news and cultural programming now reaches nearly half of the population.

AFGHANISTAN ▲



AFRICA

In Nigeria and Kenya, Internews trains radio journalists, talk show hosts and deejays in how to report effectively on HIV/AIDS and reduce stigma. Journalists can research and edit radio stories at Internews' media resource centers.



NEW INDEPENDENT STATES

Internews has organized high school students in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to produce "Kids Crossroads" together. Promoting understanding and tolerance in the region, this TV program is one of two regularly-aired sources of cross-border information produced by Internews.

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INTERNEWS

“Internews (is) one of the more successful agents of change in the former Soviet Union. Starting in 1992, when Russians could watch nothing but official news on state television, Internews helped establish independent stations in provincial cities across Russia, providing equipment and training in both journalism and business methods. It then helped create a network of these independent stations, so they could exchange experiences and share news without a Moscow bias. The effect, in many places, has been revolutionary.”

— EDITORIAL, THE WASHINGTON POST

“Democracy cannot flourish without a strong and independent media, making the mentoring and training work done by Internews an essential ingredient in the success of our country going forward.”

— DR. JOSE RAMOS-HORTA, Foreign Minister of East Timor and Nobel Peace Laureate

“By giving voice and visibility to all people – including and especially the poor; the marginalized and members of minorities – the media can help remedy the inequalities, the corruption, the ethnic tensions and the human rights abuses that form the root causes of so many conflicts.”

— KOFI ANNAN, Secretary-General, United Nations

“(Internews’) success in promoting democracy, pluralism, conflict resolution and the growth of active, well-informed civil societies in emerging democracies is undeniable.”

— SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE