

**Big Data: Contributions to Work
From OSF Proposed Strategies 2014 - 2017**

Contents

ADVOCACY AND OPERATIONAL OFFICES.....	2
Communications	2
OSF-DC	2
OSEPI- Open Society European Policy Institute.....	2
GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS AND FOUNDATIONS	3
Albania, Open Society Foundation.....	3
ARO- Arab Regional Office	4
Armenia, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation	5
OSGF- Open Society Georgia Foundation.....	6
Indonesia, Tifa Foundation.....	7
SFK- Kazakhstan, Soros Foundation.....	8
SFKyr- Kyrgyzstan, Soros Foundation	8
Pakistan, Foundation Open Society Institute	10
OSF-SA- South Africa, Open Society Foundation	12
SEAI- Southeast Asia Initiative.....	12
IRF- Ukraine, International Renaissance Foundation	13
U.S. Programs	14
THEMATIC PROGRAMS.....	15
ESP- Education Support Program.....	15
Open Society Fellowships.....	15
HRI- Human Rights Initiative.....	16
Information Program.....	17
JI- Open Society Justice Initiative	19
Media Program	20
Scholarship Programs.....	21
TTF- Think Tank Fund.....	23

ADVOCACY AND OPERATIONAL OFFICES

Communications

From: Work Plan: Office of Communications in 2014

Communications will develop its role as a measurement and evaluation resource for communications output and a source of strategic counsel on how to use **data-informed insights to achieve more effective advocacy**.

Regular metrics reports will be developed around key communications and **advocacy goals** and shared with colleagues. The data will be used to measure our effectiveness, identify opportunities, and ultimately make better decisions.

OSF-DC

From: IV. Concepts and Initiatives, Domestic Policy

School Discipline – Unacceptable numbers of youth are sent into the criminal justice system because of the overuse of expulsions and suspensions. OSF-DC has recently had some successes in our efforts to change federal law and regulations in this area, limit the role of police in schools and **mandate data collection**. There are opportunities for substantial change in this area but few actors work on this issue in DC. Chris Scott has relevant experience from working in the House and strong relationships at the Department of Education. OSF also has unique insights on effective policy in this area because of OSF-Baltimore's pioneering work.

From: **Addendum: Preliminary OSF-DC 2014 Work Plan, International Issues**

Counter-Terrorism – Work to obtain a narrowing or repeal of Authorization to Use Military Force adopted after 9/11; promote the responsible closure of Guantanamo and reform of rendition policies; obtain the public release of all or part of the SSCI Report on CIA interrogations; increase the transparency and accountability of drone strikes; reform profiling policies and **mandate data collection on profiling**.

OSEPI

From: 4. OSEPI'S OWN CONCEPTS AND INITIATIVES

From: II. Guarantee fundamental rights, rule of law and equality within the EU

Specific objectives:

- Ensure that equality is measurable in Europe: The EU and member-states collect **data on equality**, and establish monitoring tools for specific groups **at risk of discrimination**

5. SHARED FRAMEWORKS

OSEPI will contribute to shared frameworks (SFs) where EU policy, funding, laws or public stances can significantly affect the outcome. OSEPI's contribution to developing and implementing SFs will depend on how large the EU component is and how much content the SF will produce that would influence policy. Some of the objectives listed above will evolve as SFs advance: for example, the '**data for equality**' own concept could become part of a justice SF; the possible SF on corporate accountability is likely to have a significant EU component; and OSEPI is engaged on the working group on standards and methods for elections. OSEPI expects to shape significantly the EU dimension of the 'Jekhutno' shared framework on Roma.

From: ANNEX 1: PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN FOR 2014

Guarantee fundamental rights, rule of law and equality within the EU

Proposals for a rule of law monitoring mechanism incorporate OSEPI recommendations. **The Equality Data Initiative** proposes sound methods to ensure accurate data collection. OSEPI presents a proposal for a detailed EU framework establishing minimum standards for procedural safeguards and detention conditions for the custody of undocumented migrants. Parliament and Council adopt OSEPI recommendations when negotiating amendments to the proposal for a European Public Prosecutor. (Israel, Costanza, Ellen, Nadja, Kersty)

GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMS AND FOUNDATIONS

Albania

From: Foundation Concepts and Initiatives

II. Challenging Impunity: In Albania, those with power and influence have little to fear if they break the law, and citizens have little faith in the rule of law. In response, OSFA is putting forth an initiative to chip away at this pervasive culture of impunity. It will do so by advancing four interrelated measures: public-interest litigation, investigative journalism, citizen mobilization and the **generation of data and analysis on organized crime**. In many instances all or most of these tools will be deployed in concert for maximum impact. By working with litigators, journalists and communities to collectively contest wrongdoing, perpetrators of crimes will feel more threatened and society will become more emboldened.

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Widespread organized crime contributes to and influences the culture of impunity. Yet there is essentially no local expertise or locally-generated information on this issue. In parallel to the above-mentioned approaches, the foundation will begin building local hubs to examine organized crime

and prepare an annual *Threat Assessment* related to human and drugs trafficking, money laundering, political meddling, extortion and racketeering. OSFA has identified a pool of key experts to help it launch this process, with it in mind—over four years—to build up a network of regionally-based centers of expertise to **collect and analyze organized crime data** and trends and use that information to inform/coach prosecutors, judges and law enforcement agencies. As this network develops, the foundation will integrate it with the litigation and investigative journalist teams.

ARO

From: III Fealty to Fields and Places

D. Media and Information Program

An independent media and the free flow of information are essential to an open society and will be key to the success of democratic transition. ARO's program in the area of Media and Information consists of three distinct, but inter-related fields that underpin ARO's larger strategic goal to promote a culture of accountability and to strengthen democratic transition. Together, they seek to nurture platforms and spaces for the dissemination of information that enlightens, mobilizes, and empowers citizens, providing the means to promote democratic values; to give citizens voice; and to keep the public well informed so that it may demand change.

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Access to Information

In spite of the Arab uprisings, transparency is the exception rather than the rule, and governments maintain a tight command over the flow of information. Statistics, historical archives, and **basic governmental data** remain beyond the reach of citizens due to restrictive laws and a culture of secrecy.

The Field

In the last five years as Arab governments have adopted or sought to adopt Freedom of Information laws under the encouragement of international financial institutions, a number of CSOs have devoted attention to the issue. The field includes CSOs dedicated to promoting access to information; governments and parliamentarians working with civil society to promote transparency; and researchers and **technologists working on data collection and archiving** to strengthen the practice of information dissemination and to **utilize such data for transparency and accountability promotion**.

Partners in this field identified for support are between eight and ten CSOs and coalitions spanning Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. They are leading independent groups at the forefront of efforts to adopt FOI laws; to promote citizen demand for information and government disclosure; and to utilize technology to enable transparency and disseminate information. The key partners include Al-Quds Center for Political Studies in Jordan, SITC and AFTE in Egypt; Maharat in Lebanon; Al-Bawsala in Tunisia; Bileil Media Production in Egypt; REMDI Freedom of Information Coalition in Morocco; and ADEF in Egypt.

ARO's goal during the coming strategy period is to strengthen this emerging field by developing a network of leading CSOs utilizing best practices to advocate for ATI and the adoption and enforcement of new pro-disclosure laws.

Donors

The donor landscape for media development has widened following the Arab uprisings and includes a variety of governmental and private donors along with various sub-contacting media developments outfits that span the US and Europe. Among the leading donors and media implementers with which ARO collaborates most closely are International Media Support, SIDA, Oxfam-Novib, and Ford Foundation. It also coordinates joint project work with governmental donors such as USAID, MEPI, and the European Union, which support a number of key partners.

Other Significant Collaborations

ARO collaborates principally with OSF-MP and OSF-IP with whom it shares a number of joint grantees and works in concert in developing fields of operation. In the area of Access to Information, cooperation exists with HRI, and OSJI. The latter is also a collaborator for select work on Freedom of Expression.

Armenia

From: FEALTY TO FIELDS

FIELD 2 TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Priority 2.1 – Scaling up anti-corruption efforts

Corruption affects all areas of life in Armenia; political corruption, bribery in the private sector, and manipulation of foreign aid projects are some manifestations of it. At the same time, the government has committed itself to a number of initiatives such as implementation of GRECO and UNCAC¹, which stipulate an entirely new level of government transparency and can be an entry point for civil society to demand more accountability. OSF – Armenia will support two leading organizations Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center (TIAC) and Journalists' Club "Asparez" (Asparez) to scale up work on government transparency and accountability. Both organizations have benefitted from evaluations commissioned by the OSF to assist in refining their strategies as well as from data management initiatives to secure their systems.

The TIAC has years of watchdog experience focusing on government policies and practices on issues ranging from elections to natural resource use. The TIAC is also indispensable in providing support and guidance to the emerging youth transparency movement. Our support will enable the organization to strengthen its policy work and carry out evidence-based advocacy aimed at improvement of legislation, implementation of Armenia's international anti-corruption obligations.

Asparez is a standard-setter in utilizing the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and litigation to guarantee public access to information and to **open up critical data disclosing corrupt practices in the use of public funds**. Asparez's watchdog role in assessing implementation of aid projects, including the Millennium Challenge Compact, and conflict of interest issues, and in empowering local communities to claim their right to know is crucial. With our support, Asparez will **build up on its data-mining initiatives** and multiply the use of FOI among local communities.

¹ GRECO – governments against corruption; UNCAC – UN Convention against Corruption

Outcomes: legislation, securing efficient anti-corruption measures, transparent and accountable management of public resources, and strengthening integrity of elections is adopted and enforced; consistent disclosure of information on the use of public funds is implemented by local communities and activists through use of FOI Act and budget monitoring.

OSGF

From: III. Fealty to Fields

Field 1: Access to Information

Recognizing that access to information is a crucial element for ensuring greater government accountability at all levels, OSGF and its partner organizations, including the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), the Institute for Development Freedom of Information (IDFI), Transparency International Georgia (TI), the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC), and Green Alternative, have already made progress in **improving access to data. Nonetheless, Georgia still fails to provide full access to information, and a number of problematic issues in the legislation surrounding freedom of information persist.** OSGF's partners demonstrated their high capacity for advocating, researching and monitoring within OSGF-supported projects and, are capable of identifying FOI-problematic issues and undertaking the proper solutions.² Furthermore, as members of the Open Governance Project (OGP) working group and the Anti-corruption Inter-agency Council, they can influence decision-makers and use access to information as a tool for holding government transparent and accountable. As other donors' funding to NGOs working on access to information is declining,³ OSGF's commitment is crucial for making sure that this vital work continues in Georgia.

From: IV Concepts

Concept 4: European Integration for Democratic Development

Georgia's foreign policy priority is integration with the European Union, which serves as a mechanism for consolidating democracy. An Association Agreement is expected to be signed by the end of 2013. Until its ratification by the EU member states, EU-Georgia relations will be governed by an Association Agenda. Implementation of Association Agenda will require protection of minorities from discrimination and exclusion in accordance with European and international standards, and the development of a modern European legal framework. It will also necessitate close cooperation between the authorities and representatives of minorities to combat the growth intolerance and the incidence of hate crimes. Based on its experience of advocacy work regarding

² In the strategy drafting process, OSGF conducted consultations with donors and partners working in the field and identified areas, where without OSGF funding and coordination, NGOs' interventions (advocating for defining legal timeframe for responding to FOI requests, publishing a list of information subject to proactive disclosure and legislatively enshrining the line between public and private information, establishing legitimate body for oversight such as FOI commissioner) will not succeed.

³ In new reality major donors are directing their efforts to capacity building of government and new wave of reforms, and in addition majority of USAID- funded programs oriented on civil society and media will be closed in 2014.

the European Neighborhood Policy, OSGF will advocate for inclusion of benchmarks relevant for Open Society in upcoming EU-Georgia Association Agenda and mobilize civil society resources to monitor the fulfillment of the reforms envisaged by the Association Agenda.

The Association Agreement requires the Georgian government to enact a number of complex reforms such as enforcement of law on equalities, law on personal data protection— underlining the need for proper public awareness campaigns and an inclusive process of dialogue. Surveys show that up to eighty per cent of the country's population supports Georgia's EU membership, but the available data suggest that the awareness of European values and the costs and benefits of integration is very low⁴. In spring 2013, OSGF drafted and successfully advocated for the adoption of the European Integration Information and Communication Strategy of Georgia. As part of the strategy, OSGF proposes to promote European values through media and initiate debates on EU integration issues with the involvement of different target groups. A particular emphasis will be on raising awareness on EU institutions, integration processes and EU values among ethnic minorities and young people.

Outcomes:

- Benchmarks developed and offered by CSOs are incorporated into the Association Agenda implementation document;
- CSO recommendations on Association Agenda implementation are accepted by the Government;
- Public understanding of the EU integration processes is increased.

TIFA

From: 3. ADVANCING CONCEPTS AND INITIATIVES AND IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR PARTNERS IN THE FIELDS

1.1. Securing Access of Citizens to Information

Indonesia has made some progress on the area of citizens' access to information. It has recently passed the Freedom of Information (FoI) Law. The government has subsequently come up with a work plan requiring all state and government agencies to disclose information to the public, by among others create a function in the offices that will deal with the public requiring information. Indonesia has also signed up to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and will assume presidency of the OGP in the fall of 2013. In reality, however, many state and government agencies are still falling short of fulfilling their commitment mandated by the FoI Law. There has also been a lack of serious effort to socialize the law to the public, resulting in the general lack of public knowledge that the Law even exists. The civil society is of the view that the government still has stacks of homework to do, and that Indonesia's presidency of the OGP might thus be seen as hollow if the deficiencies are not addressed.

The FoI Law acts as a basic tool that citizens have in holding their state to account in terms of the use of the public funds, and policies pertaining to rights and development, enables power to demand information about how decisions are made. TIFA and our civil society partners, such as

⁴ Caucasus Research Resource Center, 2011

ICEL (Indonesian Center for Environmental Law) will continue to watch over the progress in the government's commitment under the FoI Law that we have done for a number of years. Specific foci will be on the areas of environment, transparency and accountability, migrant workers, legal empowerment, and human rights and develop evidence on how FoI impacts the realization of social and economic rights. TIFA will also maintain a constructive critical stance of Indonesia's participation and its incoming presidency in the OGP, and will convey the reports on the progress of Indonesia's commitment to the government, through the UKP4 (Presidential Delivery Unit for Supervision and Management of Development). We will also work with the civil society coalition in launching an advocacy to ensure that the currently deliberated Secrecy Bill does not curtail public access to information. Finally, we seek to expand our engagement on this area by **establishing a partnership with the relevant government agencies, especially on forging a capacity development plan for the government in producing and disclosing data and information and in understanding how to handle public request for data in an efficient manner.**

SFK

From: 3. FEALTY TO FIELDS AND PLACES

FIELD: QUALITY JOURNALISM

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By relying on partners' expertise in court litigation, journalism training for early- and mid-career professionals; plus, their outreach to regional media, SFK will work toward raising journalists' awareness about the existing legal limitations to press freedom and will support relevant cutting-edge workshops in news reporting and storytelling across digital platforms along with supplementary trainings in computer-assisted reporting, **data-driven journalism**, etc. These efforts will help promote and improve the quality of local news coverage with the emphasis on issues of transparency, accountability and social justice, which often get overlooked by the mainstream national media due to their complexity and reporters' lacking professionalism to seek out and present information.

SFKyr

From: Fealty to fields and Places

Media and Digital Rights

SFK support to the field of media and Internet freedom and digital rights for the past 20 years has helped the country along a very difficult democratization process. Protection of these basic rights ended the political and information monopoly, allowed for the development of a vibrant Internet community and ensured relative pluralism in traditional media. Within four years, SFK seeks to preserve fealty to this field with the help of two established watchdogs, Civic Initiative for Internet Policy and Media Policy Institute, who will be responsible for everyday Internet and media policy advocacy, monitoring, highlighting and preventing laws that abridge freedom of expression, media, Internet and promoting best legislative practices. Both of these organizations have established and trustable expertise and have won credibility of SFK over a decade of close cooperation.

Digital human rights advocacy is becoming a critical issue for Kyrgyzstan. Here, there is a tendency to enact restrictive new legal practices, as well as questionable controls over online content, which affect freedom of expression and **threaten** freedom of speech and communications and **privacy**. In 2014, we propose to support one of the watchdogs - Civil Initiative on Internet Policy - through an institutional grant to collaboratively with SFK, empower other civil society advocates to promote reforms in cyberpolicy and digital rights advocacy. CIIP was founded in 2001 as a local NGO with the mission to support good governance in Kyrgyzstan via promoting internet freedom, predominantly through policy advocacy. During its decade of operation it has worked with Hivos, OSCE, USAID, EC, UNDP, UNHCR, NED and others. CIIP's position as a cyberpolicy advocacy leader has positive spillover effects within the Russian-speaking region. CIIP maintains close contact with sister policy advocacy groups in the CIS: most successful policy advocacy mechanisms are regularly discussed, and Russian-language policymaking materials to support pro-freedom positions are immediately shared. In this term, the other, and most major aim of our support to CIIP is launching (perhaps in conjunction with the E-Government Academy in Estonia) a cyberpolicy institute which could be an online resource for policymakers in other CIS countries.

Media Policy Institute is one of the leading organizations working in the field of media and freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan on an institutional basis. MPI monitors media legislation, provides legal help to journalists and media outlets, establishes close links between citizens, media and government, creates platforms for media talks and discussions, and raises media culture and ethics. It is the only organization that defends journalists in courts and provides legislative assessment to the current and new media legislation. SFK seeks cooperation with MPI through an institutional grant in the following areas: monitoring and evaluation of the media legislation, promotion of the best international legislative practices, action on any attempts to abridge freedom of expression, media or Internet, rights protection of journalists, organizing media law trainings for reporters and lawyers, hosting public debates on media policy and journalism quality issues. MPI's other supporters include Internews Network in the Kyrgyz Republic, Democratic Commission (US. Embassy), OSCE Center in Bishkek.

From: Foundation concepts and initiatives

Access to information and freedom of expression

The field of access to information and freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan remains the most liberal and open in Central Asia, which is the result of a long-term fostering of civil society and media actors, primarily by SFK. However, these improvements remain unstable given the flawed legislative system, political instability, neighboring authoritarian states and protracted frozen conflict situation after the June 2010 violence. **SFK seeks to improve equal access to information in three key areas** which are currently considered the most urgent, vulnerable and problematic: digital switchover, **access to knowledge in digital environment**, and minority language media. SFK results in this field will have profound effects on the entire region.

Over the course of the next four years, SFK will help protect and broaden the space for access to information, knowledge and freedom of expression in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Kyrgyzstan has international obligations to turn off the analogue signal in June 2015 and start digital broadcasting. However, the switchover process is hampered by inadequate legislation, lack of technical and professional expertise on the part of local broadcasters to produce high quality content for digital audience, and an absence of state guarantees of equal access to digital spectrum to all interested stakeholders. As a result, audiences might be deprived of access to locally-produced news after the digital switchover is completed in 2015, which might have serious repercussions for the country's information security. In the first thematic area of the concept, SFK seeks to provide audiences with access to high quality domestic information produced by local broadcasters. This objective will be achieved through the creation of legislative mechanisms for a transparent and inclusive digital switchover process with equal access of local channels to digital spectrum and digital packages (multiplexes) with the help of locally and internationally hired experts or a special working group facilitated by SFK. In addition to this, the capacity of selected local broadcasters will be raised during residence trainings to improve the quality of the channels' content, programming, and technical expertise. Our expected implementing partners are: TV Club Public Foundation, Door Media, National Broadcasters Association and Journalists Public Foundation.

The second priority is improving access to knowledge by means of bringing the copyright legislation in line with modern technology, so that users can freely and legally reuse, revise, remix and redistribute educational materials and open source software through open licensing. New technologies bring new opportunities for knowledge creation and dissemination. However, due to the restrictive national copyright law, local educational resources, heavily funded by several donors, are available only in limited print edition and remain inaccessible to mass audiences. In this term, SFK intends to introduce on national level Open Educational Resources Initiative, known as OER, to **promote free public access to publicly funded educational resources**. Since 2011 Kyrgyz government is widely discussing implementation on national level the One-Laptop-per-Child (OLPC) project, at the same time conducting negotiations with the international loan institutions to secure funding for this project. However, as international practice shows, prior to OLPC project, it requires developed digital content for schoolchildren, otherwise it will be just waste of money. OLPC claims to be providing infrastructure, but without educational content it will be impossible to use for declared educational purposes.

OER lays the foundation for the creation of educational digital content, and as first and important step in the process of transition to eTextBooks. SFK's objective will be lobbying educational institutions and governmental agencies regulating public education to adopt concepts of open educational resources (OER) and open licenses in their works. OER present a strategic opportunity for Kyrgyzstan to improve the quality of education, as well as facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building in digital environment. Towards this end, a hands-on methodology will be developed by a consortium of local and international partners to introduce open access policies and best practices in IT for education and development.

Pakistan

From: 3) Fealty to Fields and Places

a. Education Program

Right to Education

OSF Pakistan will continue to support education partners to work on Right to Education (RTE). Our partners were able to demand making education a basic right in the Constitution. The enactment of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2012 for Islamabad by both the Senate and the National Assembly and passing of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act by the Sindh Provincial Assembly are major steps forward. OSF Pakistan has supported **evidence-based advocacy** through development of ASER Pakistan, a citizen-led household survey about learning outcomes, focusing not simply on inputs for quality or whether children are going to schools but on what they are learning. **It seeks to fill a gap in educational data by providing reliable and comprehensive data at a national level on the status of education of 3 to 16 year olds.** OSF Pakistan has helped create, sustain and entrench the Campaign for Quality Education. We also support advocacy, for quality education for all, undertaken by the Pakistan Coalition for Education, a national civil society network engaging more than 200 members and organizations. Our partners are represented on all important education sector commissions, task forces and other committees. Input in education policy, from OSF Pakistan and our partners, is routinely sought by government, international organizations and other stakeholders.

C. Transparency Program

Budget Transparency

The budget process in Pakistan is closed and inaccessible for the general public and so transparency in the area of public finance becomes key to transparency and accountability in all other areas. OSF Pakistan will work to ensure more open, participatory and accountable public financing that is responsive to the needs of citizenry.

OSF Pakistan is involved in some budget analysis work through local partners in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province. Our partner, Omar Asghar Khan Development Foundation, focused on the transparent use of post flood rehabilitation funds and discouraged the use of block funds that gives greater discretionary powers to politicians on fund allocation. Another partner, Centre for Governance and Public Accountability, has just started a project on engagement of local civil society groups and media in budget making process at local level. Expected outcome of the project is improvement in social sector service delivery in target sectors (education, water and sanitation, waste disposal, and health) at local level (union council and municipal committee) through citizens' participation in planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of the development projects. **The data collected from budget analysis work will be used to mobilize citizen activism through people's assemblies, and in assisting citizen-state engagement on the budget through roundtables and public hearings.**

From: 4) Program Concepts and Initiatives

c. Media Program

Exploratory Work

A number of our programs are exploring the role of new technologies and tools for increasing outreach, creating feedback loops, increasing access to information and strengthening accountability. Role of mobile technology in monitoring of teachers and schools, development

projects, creating threat alerts for journalist safety and/or human rights abuses are examples. In particular, digital journalism remains unexplored and **through media program we aim to support initiatives to introduce the concept of data journalism and computer assisted reporting to local journalists and citizens.** Most of these involve traditional and new media. We will explore these possibilities over the next year.

OSF-SA

From: 3. FEALTY TO FIELDS AND PLACES

Protecting the free flow of information and freedom of expression

Freedom of expression and the free flow of information are integral to an open society. These rights are under increasing pressure within South Africa – both as a result of attempts by the state to cast a far broader secrecy net and unequal access to information and communication technology, which is very expensive by global comparison.

Over the past several years there have been growing attempts by the executive and legislature to introduce **laws that undermine access to information by the public and an open, critical media. State surveillance appears to have grown sharply, undermining the right to privacy and the free flow of communication.**

Our partners share our commitment to achieve the **equal right of all people to access and share information**; universal access to information and communication technology; an enabling environment for whistleblowers; and a diverse and independent public interest media. Partners provide alternative media voices, conduct investigative and robust research, and/or have some legal expertise in monitoring and challenging attempts to inhibit the free flow of information and media exposure of corrupt practices.

SEAI

From: 3. Fealty to Fields and Places

a. Corruption

Confidence in democracy throughout Southeast Asia is waning. State revenues from foreign investments and natural resources are effectively controlled as personal assets. This corruption drives conflict, deepens poverty, degrades the environment, and derails development. As ASEAN prepares for economic integration in 2015, corrupt practices are threatening political stability and economic growth. In working on issues pertaining to corruption SEAI will focus on two specific fields, **access to information** and rule of law.

SEAI will support targeted social and political actors, including: 1) national and cross regional networks of civil society actors, including private legal practitioners; 2) research and policy institutes producing policy-relevant knowledge content and analysis (see Concept 1); 3) reform-minded government actors; and 4) journalists. SEAI engages with other donors in the field including USAID, the European Commission, National Endowment for Democracy, the German

Agency for International Cooperation and the Heinrich Boll Foundation. OSF's support is unique in seeding new initiatives and organizations, as well as adopting different approaches.

In Malaysia and Thailand, SEAI has built the field by seeding organizations tackling these issues in bold and innovative ways where such organizations did not previously exist. The Malaysia Center for Constitutional Rights (Liberal Banter) completed research in 2012 and launched campaigns for reform of electoral provisions in 2013. The Thailand based Internet Dialogue on Law Reform reviews legislation restricting rights to information and freedom of expression and campaigns to raise public awareness to propose new bills. In Cambodia, where a multiplicity of donors has supported an entrenched civil society for over 20 years, SEAI's support has targeted a more diverse group of actors, from traditional monitoring and advocacy NGOs to public interest law firms; one such firm is the Samreth Law Group, which has developed new modalities of engaging with key national institutions and professional associations. These groups are mainstreaming transparent and participatory approaches to drafting legislation and integrating human rights norms that can be institutionally imbedded in policy.

Support of the field, particularly to groups **utilizing open data principles**, legal empowerment and strategic litigation, has contributed to some limited examples of open government and legal redress for those whose rights have been violated as a result of corrupt practices. Support of access to information will include further development of online platforms and mapping tools, which can be leveraged with government and businesses to advance advocacy. **Access to information campaigns** will also serve to bridge urban and rural divides, empowering rural communities to engage in issues such as land grabbing. These interventions will strengthen the emerging movement calling for access to information legislation in Cambodia and Malaysia.

IRF

From: 4. IRF Concepts and Initiatives

Concept II. Fighting Corruption by Making Public Information Accessible and Countering Conflict of Interest

Reducing corruption is a condition for signing the Association Agreement with the EU. IRF supported the adoption of the law "On Access to Public Information" (2011), initiated a successful campaign for open access to municipal master plans, and a network of e-governance centres. May 2013, an overwhelming majority of MPs adopted a package of anticorruption bills. Opinion polls show that over 70% of Ukrainians see corruption as the top problem. Combined, these factors create a unique window of opportunity to fight corruption. Our assumption is that curbing corruption is possible through introducing procedures that will open access to publicly significant information. Our overall goal is to make all information, generated, collected and kept by the state, publicly accessible. This will empower citizens and groups to reuse that information for securing their rights. Yet, making information available on formal demand, as the law guarantees today, is not enough – we will work on making the whole volume of information easily accessible at any time through the Internet.

Our goal is to fight corruption by ensuring legal guarantees of open access information that is of public significance. Our objectives are: (1) creating and testing mechanisms for achieving the goal; (2) reducing corruption opportunities. These objectives will be achieved by a three-track approach: (a) ensuring public access to all property registers, **(b) creating a regulatory mechanism that grants free public access to all “big data”, including on crime, environment, public health, budgets, education etc.**; and (c) developing clear legal definitions and prevention mechanisms on conflict of interest.

The law requires that all civil servants submit their declarations of assets and indicate the total value of shares they own, but not the names of their enterprises. Opening this information is a powerful tool for disclosing corrupt decisions and conflict of interest. IRF will lead drafting bills, their broad public and expert discussions, **advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns to strengthen public demand for openness of data** and prevention of conflict of interest of politicians and public officials. We will work closely with the World Bank, USAID, and UNDP that are active on anticorruption and access to information. We will engage leading anticorruption NGOs and independent media as implementing partners and support them through grants. We are aware that the initiative will be opposed by closed state institutions across the board that regard information as a central source of their power and “revenue generation ability”.

By the end of 2014, we expect to achieve open Internet access to the register of Ukrainian legal entities. This will form a methodological and procedural foundation for creating and opening other property registers. Legal provisions regulating the conflict of interest in the public sphere will be in place. By 2015, we will elaborate and publicly disseminate procedures for accessing information in declarations of incomes and assets of civil servants at all levels, and to **data on budget planning and spending**. By the of 2017, all property registers will be publicly accessible via Internet, including the Land Cadastre, the Real Estate Register, and the Vehicle Register.

The main risk is the authorities’ manipulative references to the right of privacy as a bar to open access. A related risk is the initiative being overwhelmed by a fruitless government-public debate (given that about 40% of GDP is in the shadow economy) on the contradiction between openness and privacy. A national awareness campaign will mitigate this risk.

US Programs

From: III. Goals And Priorities – Strategy Overview

From: A. Core Efforts: Democracy, Equality & Justice, A1. Democratic Practice

The rapid spread of technology, while offering new and necessary platforms for work, information, innovation, and civic engagement, is not equally accessible to all. A small handful of corporations with enormous political power, and a strong incentive to avoid regulation, effectively control access to the Internet. So even as the Internet increasingly assumes the hallmarks of an essential public utility, more than 30% of American households don’t have it or can’t afford it, with low-income communities of color most shut out. The demise of the news industry makes access even more important. Increasing numbers of people are accessing new forms of media online, an invaluable

option at a time when traditional media are experiencing profound transformations, with resource-intensive investigative and watchdog reporting, and fact-based discourse more broadly, continuing to diminish. We're also mindful that, for all its benefits, corporations and the government can take advantage of technology in ways that endanger civil liberties, invade privacy and chill the exercise of First Amendment rights through **data mining and intrusive surveillance (or the threat of it)**, particularly under expansive national security powers.

From: C. Operational Approaches, C3. Shared Frameworks

Public Discourse in the Era of Big Data: U.S. Programs and the Information Program recognize that: 1) digital platforms, services and devices mediate human relationships of all kinds including the relationship between citizens and government, and that they are shaped, owned and operated by private companies; and 2) the rise of "big data" means that civic discourse can be invisibly manipulated through the massive harvesting of digital public data and increasingly sophisticated algorithmic tools. We are working to develop a cross-cutting strategy that addresses the open society consequences of these developments.

(Within US Programs, issues of "big data" and surveillance are being pursued through the Democracy Fund and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign)

THEMATIC PROGRAMS

ESP

From: 6. Other Significant Collaborations

Some of these collaborations might be advanced through the Souk.

EU policies and financial mechanisms for marginalized groups: ESP is interested to explore the negative consequences for social cohesion of the current EU policies and financial mechanism meant to create opportunities for the socially marginalized. Preliminary inquiry in the area demonstrates that these mechanisms are likely to reproduce and entrench inequality in opportunity and marginalization in accessing quality education. **Research in this area has also led to important insights on how weak is open government data in education/social inclusion in Europe, raising important concerns on the public sector transparency and accountability.** Based on these considerations, ESP seeks to support the creation of evidence-base on the gaps of EU education policy implementation, **address the lack of transparency of education/social inclusion data and feed the results into evidence-based grassroots advocacy.** Potential collaboration is foreseen with MtM, OSIFE, Public Health Program and other programs interested to participate.

Fellowships

From: 3. Fealty to Fields and Places

...

Within our network, there is broad agreement about what constitutes “open society” values and how to promote them. However, colleagues can and often do disagree about the precise tactics appropriate to a given context and how to act when core values appear to be in conflict. Among the most successful **fellowship events** have been those that **deliberately create productive friction by bringing together fellows and outsiders with contrasting viewpoints and backgrounds.** Past events include “Is Privacy Overhyped?” which pitted the deputy general counsel of the FBI against two fellows (Morozov and privacy activist Chris Soghoian), and “Revising Paul Kagame,” in which fellow Howard French and others examined the premature canonization of Rwanda’s president. With these gatherings, we will continue to highlight the kinds of divergences that can help clarify and refine our understanding of open society objectives.

HRI

From: II. Support to the Field

Ensuring PARTICIPATION

Compelling states to release and producing data on human rights obligations

Effective access to public information is a precondition for exercising many other human rights, especially the right to participate. Even as governments commit to making more information accessible to the public through a range of transparency commitments, human rights information may still be difficult to access. **Some grantees have been successful in using these commitments to compel states to produce more meaningful data on their progress in fulfilling their human rights obligations. In other instances, groups have used the right to information to document how states’ data collection methodologies reinforce marginalization, and have demonstrated how certain data is necessary to meeting human rights obligations.** The Human Rights Initiative supports groups to use the **right to information to ensure that communities can access government-held information that impacts their rights and, when such data is unavailable or inadequate, works with grantees to compel states to produce information that can be used to monitor progress toward rights commitments.**

From: VI. Other Significant Collaborations

Participation

Supporting strategies that enhance data collection for rights advocacy

The Human Rights Data Initiative is a joint initiative with the **Information Program** that seeks to address the gap between human rights and transparency institutions and digital and technological tools in the fields of communication, security, and evidence-based policymaking. Together we will focus on redesigning information infrastructure for core human rights actors. **We will work to foster emerging data practices that enhance monitoring and advocacy.**

From: Appendix III: Concepts and Own Initiatives

2) Building a Broader Constituency for Human Rights

OBJECTIVE: Strengthen the capacity of civil society groups to use social media and other new technology tools to reach broader audiences and more effectively mobilize their constituencies.

LOCATION and ACTIVITIES

Armenia and Georgia: Working in close partnership with the Information Program and our joint grantee HURIDOCS, we will continue investing in the capacity of a select number of **grantees in these countries to collect and analyze data for advocacy and civic mobilization**. HURIDOCS will work with local partners to address their technology and communications needs.

Information

From: 3. Fields & Initiatives

C. Civil Liberties in the Digital Environment

As the internet and digital communications continue to increase in importance, so do the pressures to regulate and control them. Moreover, recent advances (including ones that don't receive much attention, such as a host of new sensor technologies) are making the **collection, storage and manipulation of "big data" cheap and easy for both governments and private actors**. Policy decisions made in the next few years will have long-lasting effects on the right to free expression, privacy and due process.

Support to the Field: The field working to protect civil liberties in the digital environment is made up of two overlapping communities: first, a network of young organizations with deep expertise in technology and a commitment to an open internet and human rights; and second, traditional free expression, human rights and consumer advocacy NGOs – groups which have a strong background in consumer or human rights advocacy, but have not traditionally worked on technology policy.

The Information Program is helping the first group to expand and strengthen. This has entailed risk-taking, because in many cases we have been the first funder of highly innovative but fledgling organizations. We support them by providing core grants, and, in some instances, dedicated investment in organizational development. An example is La Quadrature du Net, a young French grassroots campaign group led by Jeremie Zimmermann, whose imaginative use of new tools and tactics played an instrumental role in the defeat of ACTA. We will concentrate these core grants in Europe (because European standards are an influential reference point globally) and Latin America (because countries in that region are only now beginning to regulate this space, and are relatively open to civil society input). We will also build the field by working with international players such as Privacy International and Citizen Lab, enabling them to re-grant to their partners in the Global South and strengthen connections across regions. (In the United States, this territory is covered by OSF's US Programs – we coordinate our work closely.)

The Program will also support cross-fertilization between the new digital civil liberties organizations and traditional human rights groups. For example, we will work with the OSF Media Program on the "digital transformation" of IFEX, the largest global network of freedom of expression NGOs, and in support of the work of the Special Rapporteurs for Freedom of Expression.

The main challenge for the field is that repressive forces (governments such as China and Russia) are on the rise. The issues are complex and prone to obfuscation, and global governance of the space is broken. Given that progressive policy change is unlikely in repressive states, we respond to

these challenges by concentrating resources in places that can create human rights-compliant standards for others to emulate (such as data protection regulations in Europe and the “Marco Civil” in Brazil). A related challenge is the rise of a “cyber-security industrial complex,” which is inflating the threat of cyber-warfare and malicious hacking to lobby for pervasive surveillance and over-reaching security measures; civil society needs to develop effective strategies in response. Other issues the field will need to address in 2014-2017 include:

- Improving standards for liability of internet intermediaries such as ISPs and social networks.
- Grappling with new surveillance legislation and export control of surveillance technologies.
- **Elaborating models of privacy protection in the context of big data, such as human rights standards governing forensic DNA databases, and privacy-friendly open government data policies.**

None of the major private human rights funders has a fully-developed international program in this space, except for MacArthur, which is not funding hard-hitting advocacy. Google is the most important corporate sponsor, yet many of our grantees do not accept corporate money. OSF fills an important gap: We especially support new and innovative groups; we are virtually the only donor funding this work in Europe; and we are able to draw on the capacity of other OSF programs, such as the Justice Initiative’s expertise in litigation. We will also play an important role in advocating with Rausing, Oak, Omidyar and other foundations to expand or start work on digital civil liberties.

From: [4. Collaborations and Shared Frameworks](#)

OSF Working Group on “Big Data” and Open Society

The rise of “big data”, although the subject of a good deal of hype, is possibly no less consequential for open society issues than the rapid growth of the internet was in the mid-1990s – and no less fraught with contradictory effects. The term refers to two connected, and accelerating, trends. First, technological advancements enable us to render into data many aspects of the world that have never been quantified before. Second, the tools to store and manipulate vast sets of such data are now widespread, and being put to extraordinary new uses. We are only beginning to grasp the implications for open society of a world where algorithms crunching giant datasets will change how we approach law enforcement and security, public health, political campaigning, public discourse and many other fields.

While this transformation promises many benefits, our focus is on the mitigation of risks, both familiar (protection of privacy) and new. One example is the use of predictive analytics to profile and single out groups and individuals, enabling judgement and differential treatment even before they have acted. Another is the power of algorithms to shape public discourse on social media platforms, online communication channels, and search engines.

As a first step, we are proposing to establish and lead an OSF Working Group on Big Data and Open Society to which we would invite colleagues from US Programs, the Justice Initiative, the Public Health, Media, and Open Society Fellowship programs, and the Soros Economic Development Fund. This working group would explore, via targeted research, regular conference calls, events, and potentially grant-making and fellowships, the challenges to open society values raised by “big data”. The group would explore strategies for future work in the field, with the aim of proposing either a shared framework or a set of programmatic objectives by the middle of 2015.

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From: 3. and 4. Proposed Strategic Priorities 2014-2017

B. Equality and Inclusion, ii. Program Concepts and Initiatives

Goal: Establish European states' obligation to **collect data necessary to reveal patterns of inequality, and define modes of collection that are effective and protect privacy.**

There is growing awareness (flowing in part from OSF's own work) that fighting discrimination requires data disaggregated so as to make inequality visible. Across OSF and within the European Commission the need for equality data is being discussed. **The Justice Initiative has experience working with groups who reasonably fear misuse of equality data to marshal legal and policy arguments for reform.**

2014 Objectives:

- **In Europe, secure a public call by an EU body for states to disaggregate data by ethnicity and disability.** This should build on the current review, by the European Commission, of member states' implementation of the EU race equality directive, and the December 2012 release by the EU fundamental rights agency (FRA), of an opinion asking for more clarity on equality data.
- **Launch a case challenging a European government's failure to collect equality data, while employing legal empowerment tools to gather evidence of that failure's discriminatory effects.**
- In Latin America, through technical assistance, research and advocacy, ensure Peruvian compliance with 2009 Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommendations **mandating progress by 2014 on racial/ethnic equality data collection.**

Proposed OSF Partners: OSEPI, HRI, OSIFE, LAP, possibly RIO

From: C. Accountability, Liberty, and Transparency, ii. Program Concepts and Initiatives

Goal: Promote - primarily by advocating for the adoption of nuanced legal norms - an appropriate balance between privacy and free expression/transparency values in areas of particular interest to OSF, including online public interest speech, access to ethnic data, public health statistics, corporate beneficial ownership, asset declarations of public officials, and rights of NGOs to keep information.

The potential conflict between personal privacy (and the related concept of commercial confidentiality), on the one hand, and free speech/transparency, on the other, is a recurring theme in a number of priority areas for the Justice Initiative and OSF generally. Whether maliciously wielded to shield malfeasance or simply rigid and outdated, privacy protection frameworks and cultural attitudes conspire to hinder integrity. New conceptual and regulatory frameworks need to be developed that strike an appropriate balance between privacy and transparency interests; they must be sufficiently detailed to be of practical use in resolving conflicts.

We have extensive experience in transparency and anti-corruption and some in dealing with privacy-transparency conflicts (e.g. related to asset declarations and online discussion of public figures). OSF has strong relationships with privacy networks and other parts of OSF can provide the respective sectoral know-how. Other groups are not addressing privacy issues systematically or from the perspective of international law, especially freedom of expression. Privacy International, which does address privacy issues systematically, does not engage in litigation except regarding the international trade in surveillance technologies. Several technology groups focus on privacy concerns of internet users but absent deep knowledge of international human rights law.

2014 Objective: Begin developing detailed standards on one or two sets of privacy questions, such as “the right to be forgotten” in the online environment, and/or access to government- or privately-held data relevant to OSF objectives in ethnic profiling, public health or anti-corruption.

Proposed OSF Partners: Regional and/or national foundations to be determined.

Media

From: Media Program 2014-17

I. CONTENT

1. Accountability

The field

Even as the ability of mainstream media to act as a watchdog has diminished, advances in technology and mastery of new skills have made investigative journalism less costly and more efficient. Increasingly, this genre is migrating to small independent non-profit outlets that combine data-driven with traditional “shoe-leather” journalism, publish primarily online, and syndicate content through mainstream media. To compensate for backroom support that large news organizations provide, they participate in international networks via collaborative platforms and tools, especially when pursuing stories on organized crime, corruption, tax evasion, and so forth.

The Media Program has helped to shape this field through grant-making, fellowships, and advice, and by nurturing talent and leadership, developing individual organizations, and fostering international networks and collaboration. The challenge now is to sustain key actors in this rapidly evolving field, and amplify the impact of their work. **The Program will build on its support to:** regional and international networks (e.g., International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism); collaborative platforms and projects (e.g., European Fund for Investigative Journalism, Investigative Dashboard, Visual Investigative Scenarios); **data-driven journalism, and those creating links between investigative journalists and programmers;** and investigative non-profits and associations of investigative journalists.

In the current strategy period, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Working models of financing investigative non-profits from sources other than donor support;
- Shared databases, story archives, collaborative platforms and other tools serving the entire field;
- Model safety protocols and procedures applicable to investigative journalists and their organizations.

Concepts and initiatives

Only two per cent of international media development funding supports investigative journalism. We will deepen our collaboration with a handful of other donors who fund such journalism, and will work to broaden the circle of private and corporate funding for libel insurance, regional grant funds, web-based resources, and developing business models.

As part of OSF's overall effort to promote accountability of government and business, the Media Program will work with the Transparency and Accountability Initiative, Publish What You Pay, Revenue Watch, the Justice Initiative, the Information Program, the Think-Tank Fund and others to bring together constituencies of our programs, in order to support investigations (e.g., via improved data processing capabilities, and specialized expertise) and to reinforce action to follow up on journalistic exposés.

The Program will also facilitate the emergence of networks of investigative non-profits and individual journalists in parts of Asia, where such international collaboration is weak.

In the current strategy period, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Regional and, possibly, global, investigative grant funds, libel insurance funds, and so forth, provided by multiple donors;
- Established partnerships between investigative journalists, civil society actors and other stakeholders;
- Networks of investigative journalists and outlets in Asia and their engagement in international collaboration

Shared Frameworks

The Media Program plans to participate in a number of Shared Framework initiatives, as well as to propose its own. It is currently in conversation with a range of foundations and network programs, including about creating a European Roma platform (to preserve the space for further idea exchange in the post-Decade period). **We are also partnering with the Information Program and the Think Tank Fund on examining the use and relevance of “big data” in content production and media policy.**

Scholarship

5. Contributions to Shared Frameworks

Scholarship grantees hit a roadblock in their attempts to elevate and modernize local research resources and research methodology in academic communities underserved by local universities. Proper research methodology, even the formation of good research questions, is devalued against the use of accepted (frequently “western”) theory and analysis flown in by external experts grounded in rich data preserves of more open countries. Doctoral students seeking to focus on domestic issues and regional problems frequently hit “**data gaps**”—the information they need is either buried under government controls or it simply doesn’t exist. Faculty motivated to introduce new course materials and new styles of learning rely on international connections (if they have them) to direct them to relevant publications and the latest discussions of their peers. **Internet resources (predominantly in English), where the bandwidth can support large datasets, is improving access to international data, but applying critical analysis to that data, and fleshing out useful comparisons to local circumstances, is stymied by a dearth of local data and weak local research abilities in standard research practice.**

At the same time, the Scholarship Programs, various National Foundations, and the Information Program have all supported centers and libraries intended to open up various kinds of information and intellectual resources freely and widely to local communities. Beyond these physical sites, Scholarship grantees and alumni have produced thousands of research papers, surveys, and analyses over a wide range of fields. The Higher Education Support Program and the Central European University have as well guided the development of course materials and curricular resources. **The challenge now is to capture that data and the related resources in local repositories where trained staff can help local scholars use them, add to them, and start to plug the data gap that is blocking the growth of indigenous thinking on issues informing indigenous knowledge production.**

Current technological advances have vastly improved access to mainstream knowledge sources, but these resources cannot hit their full potential in limited access countries where **local scholarship is stuck in rote learning and government controlled data.** Similarly, new media resources in the developed world are unenriched by quality data from these countries. As contemporary “western” issues (climate change, immigration/migration, HIV/AIDS, natural resource management, and so on) are now recognized as global issues, it seems logical to expect that data from the developing world should drive global understanding if not policy.

Our idea for a shared framework is to **develop a global network of data repositories populated with quality-controlled content from OSF-affiliated alumni** (CEU and Scholarships alumni, independent researchers and policy analysts from various thematic programs, Open Society Fellows, etc.). One way to do this is to link existing networks of electronically resourced public libraries (supported by the Electronic Information for Libraries program) and Education Advising Centers (funded by Scholarships), and embellish their existing strengths with research methodology training modules, workshops on designing effective web-based instruction (MOOCs), and perhaps encouraging them to host a series of public lectures on current research.

Strengthening capacities of both the libraries and the advising centers, particularly in countries where universities have not ventured energetically into academic and pedagogical innovations, would breathe new life into stale public discourse, offer a meaningful point of re-entry if not employment for returning alumni, and represent a powerful response to brain drain, donor-driven analysis, and chronically underutilized local expertise.

The repositories could be housed in the libraries, and related trainings and promotional activities could be directed by the Advising Centers, National Foundations, and affiliates of Regional Offices. The content would be governed by principles endorsed by the OSF Information Program and conform to guidelines created by the OER and Open Access movements. Trainings could include those geared toward local production (in local languages) of Massive Open Online Courses, building on traditional correspondence courses, upgraded with contemporary thinking and communications platforms. Collaborative research across borders if not continents could be generated by East-East style workshops, whose outcomes are then captured by the local research resource centers of the participants home countries.

Connecting these research resource centers to the advocacy efforts on free access to publicly-funded educational materials that the Information Program is proposing is a logical future step; one can envision that these two tracks will eventually merge in countries ready to embrace the potentials of alternative knowledge building and to hold local authorities accountable for ensuring public benefit from the expenditure of public research funds.

Text from the Information Program Strategy is particularly apt: “In many lower- and middle-income countries educational resources are produced with public funding. But much of this funding has been captured by local oligopolies and locked into retrograde models of publishing, distribution and learning. This is both a massive misallocation of public resources, and a barrier to educational reform and innovation in those countries. OERs are a powerful way to address both problems.”

TTF

From: III. FEALTY TO THE FIELD

C. Innovation, Networking and Skills-Building of Think Tanks

1) Encouraging *integration of new technologies and communications tools* within the think tank community

Learning points

From supporting the policy field we expect to learn how the use of visualization prompts think tanks to review their general communication practices and whether reliance on more visualized and interactive tools to deliver research has any impact on the depth of written products. We also expect to gain in-depth understanding of the variety of available methodologies that use new technology, including social networks surveying, and so called “**big data.**”