

About the Founder

George Soros was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1930. He emigrated in 1947 to England, where he graduated from the London School of Economics. In 1956, he came to the United States and became financially successful through his international investment fund that he founded and managed. Today he is Chairman of Soros Fund Management LCC, a private investment management firm that serves as principal investment advisor to the Quantum Group of Funds. The Quantum Fund N.V., the oldest and largest fund within the Quantum Group, is globally recognized as the investment fund with the best performance record in the world during its twenty-eight-year history.

While a student at the London School of Economics, George Soros became familiar with the work of the philosopher Karl Popper, who had a profound influence on his thinking and later on his philanthropic activities. He established his first foundation, the Open Society Fund, in New York in 1979. His first Eastern European foundation was established in Hungary in 1984, and the Soros Foundation-Soviet Union was opened in 1987. He now supports a network of foundations that operate in 31 countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Central Eurasia, as well as South Africa, Haiti, Guatemala and the United States. These foundations are dedicated to helping build and maintain the infrastructure and institutions of an open society in the countries where they work, and across borders. George Soros has also founded other major institutions, such as the Central European University and the International Science Foundation.

In addition to many articles on the political and economic changes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. George Soros is the author of *The Alchemy of Finance*, published by Simon & Schuster in 1987 and updated in 1994 by John Wiley & Sons (Polish edition published by Znak Press, Cracow 1996); *Opening the Soviet System*, published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson in 1990; *Underwriting Democracy*, published by The Free Press in 1991; *Soros on Soros: Staying Ahead of the Curve*, published by John Wiley & Sons in September 1995 (Polish edition published by PWN Scientific Publishers, 1998), *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*, 1998 (Polish edition published by Muza Publishers, 1999). His most recent book, *Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism*, was published in October 2000 by PublicAffairs.

George Soros has received honorary doctoral degrees from the New School for Social Research, the University of Oxford, the Budapest University of Economics, and Yale University. In 1995, the University of Bologna awarded him its highest honor, the Laurea Honoris Causa, in recognition of his efforts to promote open societies throughout the world, whereas in 2000 Polish biggest daily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, awarded him the title of The Man of Year for his support to civil society movement in Eastern and Central Europe.

About the Foundation

The Stefan Batory Foundation **supports the development of a democratic and open society**. The Foundation's priorities are:

- **Foster Civic Attitudes and Initiatives**

We actively initiate, support and participate in programs that shape civil society in Poland. We promote opportunities for citizens to organize themselves in accordance with their needs and beliefs, and the needs of the communities in which they live. We work closely with non-governmental organizations that help to resolve specific problems faced by their local communities; work towards equal opportunities and the alleviation of social disadvantages; counteract discrimination against women and intolerance towards minorities; and promote the rule of law and work towards the growth of a legal culture.

- **Increase Cooperation between Nations**

While countries have clearly delineated geographic borders, nations and societies should be free to travel, cooperate and enrich one another. Our Foundation initiates and supports programs that promote European integration as well as foster good relations with our neighbors in Central and Eastern Europe. We organize, as well as fund, many forums that bring countries together to discuss issues of relevance and importance to European stability. We also provide many opportunities for professional exchanges with our neighbors to the East to ensure there will be good communication and cooperation, and less isolation, as Poland is preparing to become a member of the European Union.

- **Equalize the Educational Opportunities**

An open society provides access to education to everyone in order to foster understanding and tolerance. One of our most important goals is equal access to education so all young people in rural areas, as well as cities, will have a solid foundation of knowledge in order to improve their lives. We support organizations, initiatives, and programs that improve the quality of teaching and increase access to knowledge. We assist schools and communities, particularly those in rural areas that infuse young people with initiative, social values, and positive attitudes towards involvement in public life.

- **Support Cultural Activity**

Democracy presents an opportunity to share and experience a wealth of cultures within Poland, as well as with our neighbors. We support local activities that are not only social, but also cultural. These activities foster bonds between all kinds of people, create new values, and teach about openness towards different communities, nationalities, ethnic groups, and religions. We promote openness to culture and customs of the ethnic minorities living in Poland and an understanding of their need to cultivate their own identity.

The Stefan Batory Foundation is guided by these principles:

- We are independent of all state and political institutions;
- We do not substitute for the state and local government in their statutory duties;
- We respond to existing needs, initiate programs, and foster ideas that promote an open society; and
- We maintain transparency in all our grantmaking activities and finances.

The Stefan Batory Foundation was registered by the District Court for Warsaw-Praga on 7th May 1988 (register No. F.R.I. 56) as an independent, non-governmental organization operating as a non-profit foundation with grantmaking and operational programs. The Founder is George Soros, the American financier and philanthropist who has established a network of foundations that operate in 31 countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Central Eurasia, as well as South Africa, Haiti, Guatemala and the United States. Funds for the Stefan Batory Foundation's activities are provided by the Open Society Institute - established and financed by George Soros - as well as other donors in Poland and abroad.

The Stefan Batory Foundation manages fifteen program areas. Grants are made in support of specific projects, as well as for program-related administrative costs to implement those projects. We also award scholarships for educational studies and for internships. Applications for grants and scholarships are considered on a competitive basis. Recommendations are based on advice from specialized committees and experts in relevant fields that review and suggest which projects should be funded. Final decisions of grant awards are made by the Board of the Foundation at the monthly meetings.

In addition to grantmaking, we also manage several programs internally at the Foundation, organize conferences, meetings, and training sessions. These programs include the Central and East European Forum, the European Program, the Anti-Corruption Program, and the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Education.

We also actively participate in the network programs of the Open Society Institute designed to stimulate the exchange of information and experience within the region. These programs include East-East Program and Arts & Culture Network Programs, as well as the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Education that offers Polish know-how in the area of combating and counteracting addictions to other partners in CEE and NIS countries.

The Foundation announces up-to-date information about its activities and grant-seeking possibilities in quarterly published Bulletins and on the Web Site (<http://www.batory.org.pl>). We publish annual reports presenting the list of grants awarded during the year, and provide details concerning all the Foundation's projects. The reports and editions of the Bulletin are disseminated to national and local media and to hundreds of institutions and individuals. Copies are also available free-of-charge in the Foundation's Warsaw office.

In 2001 the Foundation awarded **889** grants to institutions and organizations, and **94** to individual and group applicants (mainly for covering travel expenses under the East-East Program and the Arts & Culture Network Program); **147** scholarships were also awarded.

On grants we spent nearly **21 million zlotys** (5,1 million USD). The programs that the Foundation directly managed and operated were funded at **5,5 million zlotys** (1,3 million USD).

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