

# **TRANSFUSE Association**

## **Transatlantic Networking for the Future of Southeastern Europe**

### *Call for Applications 2003*

The TRANSFUSE Association is searching for young professionals to participate in its activities who should bring a fresh perspective to the discussion of future developments in Southeastern Europe. The Association's activities will allow these professionals to participate in a strong interdisciplinary network across the region, linked to Western Europe and the United States.

The members of the TRANSFUSE Association represent diverse backgrounds, including:

- academia
- business and finance
- mass media
- multilateral institutions
- NGOs
- politics.

The TRANSFUSE Membership covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. Members from broader Europe and the United States come from national governments, NGOs, multilateral institutions, and the business sector.

All new applicants should

- be under the age of 40
- have at least 3-5 years work experience
- speak excellent English
- possess a high degree of personal commitment and task orientation
- demonstrate interest and involvement in international issues
- be open to international cooperation.

Individuals from broader Europe and the United States should furthermore have

- an advanced degree in a related area of study or
- relevant, substantive work experience relating to or, at least, a profound interest in Southeastern Europe.

All candidates must

- be able to elaborate policy interest and awareness in the chosen topic areas
- participate in the write-out and implementation of reports or projects as required.

The 2003 TRANSFUSE Association International Conference (May 23-26, 2003) and Annual Regional Workshop (fall of 2003) will focus on issues of “**Good Governance**”, including

- the role of parliaments
- public administration reform
- reform of the judiciary
- the challenge of establishing good governance in post-conflict environments
- issues of global governance.

The TRANSFUSE Association is therefore searching for professionals who have relevant, substantive work experience in the area.

**The application must include**

- curriculum vitae
- a letter (maximum 2 pages) explaining the applicant’s policy interest and problem awareness in the area of “good governance”
- contact information of two English speaking references (plus the proposing TRANSFUSE Association member if relevant).

**Deadline for applications is April 25, 2003.** Applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process by May 5, 2003.

Participation in both the International Conference 2003 and the Annual Regional Workshop 2003 will be a requirement for final admission to the Association.

Applications and any inquiries should be sent **by e-mail or fax** to:

Ms. Sandra Breka

First Chairman

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# **TRANSFUSE Association**

## **Short Introduction to Mission and Activities**

*The TRANSFUSE Association thanks the following institutions for their generous support:*

The German Marshall Fund of the United States

The German Foreign Office

The Robert Bosch Foundation

The Council of Europe

## Mission Statement

"The TRANSFUSE Association is a unique interdisciplinary network of young professionals from the Balkans, broader Europe and the United States. We bridge the gap between the needs of Southeastern Europe and international policy making by evaluating policies and approaches, identifying deficiencies, formulating priorities for regional development and generating ideas and practical recommendations for action. We contribute to building the internationally oriented human capital the region needs for the future. Relying on the extraordinary commitment from our members, we implement our philosophy for the region through cooperative action based on shared values and common understanding. We turn ideas into results."

## Introduction

As we begin the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Southeastern Europe still presents a major challenge for the international community and for European Foreign and Security Policy in particular. The crises of the 1990s in the former Yugoslavia, repercussions of which we still observe today, vividly demonstrate the shortcomings of transatlantic efforts at crisis prevention. International responses to crises tend to be ad-hoc measures rather than integrated longer-term policies and often exclude critical regional actors.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, a change of focus among the international community and a shift of paradigm in American foreign policy in particular has taken place. Crises in different regions of the world have diminished international attention to and public interest for the Balkans. However, many political, economic and social problems in the countries of the region remain to be solved and require continued international support.

The future of Southeastern Europe depends on targeted and consistent support to develop civic structures and integrate the region into Western political, economic and security spheres. This requires consultation and collaboration between international and regional policy-makers. Initiatives which build confidence among citizens in the region are a prerequisite for peace and stability, and ultimately for regional integration and economic prosperity.

Founded in 2000, the TRANSFUSE Association introduces a creative approach to reconciliation, crisis prevention and integration by **establishing a unique interdisciplinary network of indi-**

**viduals from the countries of Southeastern Europe, broader Europe and the United States** who are dedicated to common democratic values. The Association thereby relies on extraordinary professional commitment from its members, initiating and connecting **practical initiatives** in the fields of media, civil society, security and economics that will, above all, contribute to **building the internationally oriented human capital** the region needs for the future.

## **Background**

The TRANSFUSE Association is a continuation of the **TRANSFUSE Program** that was run from May 1998 to December 2000 by the **Aspen Institute Berlin** with generous support from high-profile international foundations and multilateral institutions. In extending and enhancing the Aspen Institute's previous programs in Southeastern Europe, TRANSFUSE pursued two aims: the creation of an enduring network among its 33 participants, and the development of projects, designed by 'TRANSFUSErs' and implemented in cooperation with partner organisations. Over a period of 15 months, TRANSFUSE convened three thematic workshops, in Berlin ('Media'), Washington, D.C. ('Civil Society'), and Brussels ('Security'). The selected topics reflected areas of critical importance to democratic, pluralistic development in Southeastern Europe. Concrete project concepts in each field were readied for implementation during the concluding conference in Croatia in October 2000.<sup>1</sup>

The TRANSFUSE Program was made possible by generous support from

- The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- The Robert Bosch Foundation
- USAID
- The German Marshall Fund of the United States
- The Council of Europe
- NATO
- OSCE
- The American Embassy in Berlin.

The project was supported by an international Advisory Board including Morton Abramowitz, Carl Bildt, Bronislaw Geremek, Hans Koschnick, Sonja Licht, William Nash, Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, Lord Roper, Theo Sommer and Leo Tindemans.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: A detailed TRANSFUSE Program Report is available upon request.

The TRANSFUSE participants decided to establish the TRANSFUSE Association as an independent organisation to oversee implementation of the developed projects and to serve as an institutional framework for the group's future activities.

## **Mission and Activities**

The principal *objectives* of the TRANSFUSE Association are:

- to **identify and recruit young professionals** who should bring a fresh perspective to the discussion of future developments in Southeastern Europe;
- to develop **program activities** that advance international leadership within Southeastern Europe and within broader Europe and the United States;
- to nurture **dialogue, cooperation and integration** within Southeastern Europe as well as on the transatlantic scale, by establishing a **lasting and evolving interdisciplinary network of professionals** from Southeastern Europe, broader Europe and the United States;
- to promote **international understanding**;
- to **disseminate relevant knowledge** within and with regard to Southeastern Europe.

Each year, the Association recruits up to 20 new members through a thorough selection process. The TRANSFUSE Association focuses on identifying young professionals representing different disciplines in the countries covered by the TRANSFUSE Association Membership. The Association provides a unique regional and international network and platform for its members to engage in continued dialogue on developments in the countries of Southeastern Europe and beyond, also connecting them with external experts so as to foster a mutually advantageous debate. The activities of the Association provide the ideal framework to educate TRANSFUSE Association Members and increase their leadership capacity by involving them in policy analysis, research, policy formulation, project development and project implementation.

The TRANSFUSE Association continues to support the implementation of those projects regarding the media, civil society and security that were developed during the concluding TRANSFUSE Program. Projects in the fields of media, civil society, security and economics are initiated as decided by the members. In-Country Events take place throughout the region as part of this process. The Association monitors the execution of projects to ensure professionalism and transpar-

ency, providing updates to Association members and the wider TRANSFUSE Association audience through annual TRANSFUSE Association conferences and regular publications of research.

In accordance with its mission and to achieve its objectives, the TRANSFUSE Association runs activities on regional and national levels:

1. *Annual General Assembly and International Conference*

Each year the Association's General Assembly Meeting is combined with an international conference. All TRANSFUSE Association members are invited to participate (after five years of membership, members have to pay for their own travel and accommodation). For each annual international conference, up to 20 new members are recruited.

The conferences are opened with an event addressing issues of concern to the international community, but not necessarily or exclusively focused on the region of Southeastern Europe. The meetings are then continued on a selected subject related to Southeastern Europe and include both plenary sessions and working groups. The conferences serve to identify a number of specific questions to be addressed during an annual Regional Workshop during the upcoming year. (Topic 2002: "Challenges of Economic Development in Southeastern Europe"; topic 2003: "Good Governance".)

2. *Annual Regional Workshop*

The new members recruited for the international conference are furthermore invited to participate in a workshop addressing the main issues identified during the conference. The Annual Regional Workshops focus on policy recommendations and on the development of projects. Senior TRANSFUSE Association members with expertise in the respective subject area and invited external experts are also invited to join these Workshops.

3. *In-Country Events*

Following a pattern successfully established within the TRANSFUSE Program, bilateral and multilateral In-Country Events are organised by the TRANSFUSE Association national chapters in cooperation with their colleagues from neighboring countries. The national chapters submit proposals for in-country events to the Executive/main office for funding and, where possible, engage in additional fundraising. The Executive approves of in-country events based on a list of prerequisites in accordance with the Association's mission.