

Preface

The **EU Accession Monitoring Program (EUMAP)** was initiated in 2000 to support independent monitoring of the EU accession process. More specifically, and in keeping with the broader aims of the Open Society Institute, EUMAP has focused on governmental compliance with the political criteria for EU membership, as defined by the 1993 Copenhagen European Council:

Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, human rights, the rule of law and respect for and protection of minorities.

EUMAP reports are elaborated by independent experts from the States being monitored. They are intended to promote responsible and sustainable enlargement by highlighting the significance of the political criteria and the key role of civil society in promoting governmental compliance with those criteria – up to and beyond accession.

In 2001, EUMAP published its first two volumes of monitoring reports, on minority protection and judicial independence in the ten candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In 2002, new and more detailed minority reports (including reports on the five largest EU member States) have been produced, as well as reports on judicial capacity, corruption and – in cooperation with OSI's Network Women's Program/Open Society Foundation Romania – on equal opportunities for women and men in the CEE candidate States.

EUMAP 2002 reports on minority protection and the implementation of minority protection policies point to areas in which minorities appear to suffer disadvantages or discrimination, and assess the efficacy of governmental efforts to address those problems. The reports offer independent analysis and evaluation, policy assessment and recommendations.

EUMAP methodologies for monitoring minority protection in 2001 and 2002 (available at www.eumap.org) were developed by EUMAP with input from an international advisory board. The case study methodology used in five EU member States (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom) provides for a broad survey of the legislation and institutions for minority protection, drawing on existing research, statistical data, and surveys on minority issues in conjunction with interviews carried out by country reporters to assess the situation of one vulnerable minority group.

The policy assessment methodology used in the CEE candidate States provides for an evaluation of the special programmes these States have adopted to ensure protection of vulnerable minority groups and to promote their integration into society. The Reports assess the background to and process of developing these policies, as well as their content and the extent to which they have been implemented.

First drafts of each report were reviewed by members of the international advisory board and at national roundtables. These were organised in order to invite comments on the draft from Government officials, civil society organisations, minority representatives, and international organisations. The final reports reproduced in this volume underwent significant revision based on the comments and criticisms received during this process. EUMAP assumes full responsibility for their final content.