

Intelligentsia International, Inc.

Intelligentsia International, Inc. (III) was formed in 1990 under the name American-Soviet Cooperative Exchange, Inc. (ASCE) as a mechanism for organizing educational exchanges between the United States and republics of the former Soviet Union. The initial directors of the organizations were Supreme Soviet member Igor Bogdanov from Nizhniy Novgorod and University of Florida graduate student, John Capece, when he served as president of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, Inc. (NAGPS). In 1992 ASCE changed its name to Intelligentsia International, Inc. and secured its 501c3 status as an educational non-profit organization.

Between 1990 and 1998, the organization conducted a variety of exchanges involving approximately 200 participants including academic, youth, military, scientific, business, agriculture, and governmental representatives. Its largest project was with the Nizhniy Novgorod region, developing exchanges between Florida Atlantic University, University of Florida, and the Language University of Nizhniy Novgorod (LUNN). The exchanges eventually resulted in a USIA grant to create an American Center at LUNN in cooperation with FAU and UF. Staffing the project for III were LUNN graduate Ilya Solarev based at UF and NAGPS President Carole Glover based in Nizhniy Novgorod

Other projects during the early 1990's included an agricultural university exchange program with the Kuban region (Krasnodar); a Sister City exchange program between Gainesville, Florida and Novorossiysk, Russia; university speaking tours for Russian political officials; military exchanges with installations in Sevastopol, Ukraine; high school student exchanges between Russian and U.S. minority students in Florida; and agricultural technical assistance in Moldova through the Eastern European Linkage Institute at University of Central Florida. III also hosted the first U.S. visit and tour by Mr. Andrei Sharonov and business officials from Toliatti. Mr. Sharonov was then Russian Minister for Youth Affairs. He presently serves as Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade.

From 1999 to the present, III's primary project was managing an international internship program in cooperation with Southern DataStream, Inc. in LaBelle, Florida. To date 127 participants from 44 nations have completed SDS/III internships with an average duration of 4 months each. Current directors and officers of III include:

1. Ilya Solarev, President and Director. Ilya Solarev is employed as a banking & finance executive with UBS in New York City and is a resident of Stamford, Connecticut.
2. Carole Kuriatnikova, Executive Vice President and Director. Carole Kuriatnikova (formerly Glover) has been employed as a programs director with the Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, DC; she resides in Edgewater, Maryland.
3. John Capece, Secretary-Treasurer and Director. John Capece is employed by Southern DataStream where he operates the SDS/III internship program in LaBelle, Florida.
4. Mike Fidler, Vice President for Recruitment and Director. Mike Fidler functions as an III program participants recruiter in Europe and Asia; he resides in the Czech Republic.
5. Daniel Wood, Vice President for Development and Director. Daniel Wood is an intern at III in LaBelle, Florida where he assists with project development and educational programs design.

III intends to evolve its internship program into a more formal training program hosting technical participants specifically sponsored by governmental and private water resources related projects. This program will target either a specific region/nation or draw its participants from a variety of nations, depending on grants and sponsorship opportunities. III intends to maintain its focus on training using rural south Florida as the host region, given the unique training and cultural opportunities afforded by this location.