Call for Papers/ Essay Contest
The CIVICUS Civil Society Index Indicator Database 2003-2006

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) has recently launched the CSI 2003-2006 Indicator Database. To commemorate this milestone, CIVICUS and the CSI programme are pleased to announce an essay contest and call for papers based on this newly launched database.

Details of Essay Contest

CIVICUS welcomes submissions from interested students, civil society stakeholders and academics. Submissions must be based on the information available in the CSI 2003-2006 Indicator Database.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: October 31, 2009

Parameters for submissions:

- Length: Papers should be 5000 words maximum, including outline and abstract
- Eligibility: Candidates can submit more than one paper to the competition; however, there is to be only one author per submission
- Content: Paper can be in relation to any indicator(s) in the newly-launched database, and must make reference to the database in the paper

Assessment and awards:

- An expert panel will be convened to review the submissions
- The best paper will be awarded $500 USD
- A selection of the highest-quality papers will also be included in a compilation volume and published on the CIVICUS website

To enter the CIVICUS CSI 2003-2006 Indicator Database essay contest, please submit a cover letter and your paper to index@civicus.org. Please note that your covering letter MUST include the following:
  - Name
  - Address
  - Phone and email contact information
  - Academic institution or organization (if applicable)
  - A sentence granting CIVICUS permission to use your paper for other dissemination and publication purposes

Background on the CSI project

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) is a participatory needs assessment and action planning tool for civil society around the world, with the aim of creating a knowledge base and momentum for civil society strengthening initiatives. In implementing the CSI, national civil society organizations and stakeholders make use of qualitative and quantitative research methods to create an assessment of the state of civil society in their country. This assessment is then used to collectively set goals and create an agenda for strengthening civil society in the future.
Background on Indicator Database

The results of the CSI implementation as described above are collected in the Civil Society Index Indicator Database. The Database showcases the data gathered from more than 50 countries and 7000 stakeholders worldwide during the 2003-2006 phase of implementation. (Visit http://civicus.org/csi/phase-one for more information on this phase of the project).

The CSI Indicator Database was developed in order to share the CSI data with a global audience. In making the data available, in addition to allowing others to use and validate the information therein, it is also hoped that it will encourage further and new research on civil society around the world. To this end, the CSI Indicator Database was developed to be:

- easily accessible online
- searchable by country, dimension and individual indicator
- available free of charge

Please visit http://civicus.org/csi-phase1/index.php to access the database!